

A Town Is Born . . .

BRICELYN



11 A.M. Wednesday, September 27, 1899

A TOWN IS BORN



THE HISTORY OF BRICELYN

From Its Birth to Its 50th Anniversary

1899 – 1949

By OSCAR L. FLO

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FOREWORD

The compiler of this historical collection is deeply and humbly aware of his limitations in attempting a history of the Bricelyn community that is as complete, as adequate, and as objective as such a work should be. His educational limitations make him the first to admit that writing is not his field. He has not the talent for careful historical research and often he has had to make decisions in the selection of materials for this book which he felt at times he was not objective enough in his position as a community member to make.

Regarding the material used in assembling this volume, enough facts, pictures, and stories of Bricelyn were found to have made possible the writing of a much larger work. The task has been that of weighing, evaluating, and abridging or filling in details of the material at hand.

Time has also been an element. Weeks have been allocated to a task that should have had months or even a year to properly accomplish. The earning of a living for himself and his family necessarily relegated historical work by this writer to part-time efforts captured from nights, Sundays, and holidays.

It is the author's hope that a well balanced selection of items and pictures has been collected covering early community settlements and outstanding people and important events which have bridged the years since the September, 1899, founding date.

Dedication of this book to community founders and early settlers is deemed only fitting and proper. To a large degree, it is they who were the inspiration for this work.

Credit is due many others, without whose help and cooperation this work would not have been attempted. Knute O. Sandum, first publisher of the Bricelyn Sentinel and week by week recorder of early community events for several years, has been of immeasurable help in assembling information for this collection.

Works of C. A. Swanson and J. H. Kiester both deserve mention as source books on historical data used as reference in this work.

To the above and to the many others who cheerfully turned pictures and historical data over to the writer, heartfelt thanks are extended.

It is sincerely hoped that readers will find this book entertaining, useful and educational, that students will be able to obtain from it a better understanding and appreciation of their town and that future historians, more gifted and more objective, may utilize it in the writing of a proper history of Bricelyn.

The writer has found it an inspiring experience to meet again through the medium of old writings many of the community residents he knew as a boy, and he has made the acquaintance, too, of many who were gone from Bricelyn before he was born.

It has been an experience for which he is deeply grateful and the knowledge of the essential goodness and strength of Bricelyn's past fills him with pride so he can echo with Sir Walter Scott the heartfelt sentence, "This Is My Own, My Native Land."

OSCAR L. FLO

DEDICATION

In Bricelyn, as in every other community on the face of this nation, much is owed to our predecessors, the founding fathers and the pioneers who first broke the prairie sod.

In Bricelyn, particularly, these early residents built exceptionally well for this and future generations.

For our rich and full measure of spiritual opportunity we have our ancestors to thank for the excellent houses they built to the honor and worship of God.

Foundation for the education of our children, and our children's children were carefully laid by early residents by their generous donations in support of church colleges and schools.

The bleak log or sod schoolhouses standing on lonely corners unprotected from the wintry blasts and the hot sun of summer was the grim melting pot from which came many of the great men and women of our day.

The concept of democracy which was our fathers by birthright or adoption has been fostered and nurtured into a new meaning of freedom by these sturdy and stalwart voters and officials of the midwest.

And the economy of our community, county, and country is settled firmly on foundations of fertile, well-tilled farms such as grace our countryside and the small efficient and neighborly business establishments such as make up our main street.

To all these steadfast and courageous people, your ancestors and mine; to those wandering builders of a new nation who paused to work awhile in our community and then moved on to new horizons; to the pioneer farmers, preachers, teachers, officials, and business people who helped build the community of Bricelyn, this little collection of historical lore is affectionately and appreciatively dedicated.

OSCAR L. FLO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Oscar L. Flo

It has been my good fortune to serve in three different departments of the United States Government. Out of this experience, I have come to the firm conviction that in the days of its formation this Nation must have been under the guidance of the Almighty and that Thomas Jefferson in his drafting of the Constitution had a Divine Presence to aid him in his conception of that historic and wonderful instrument.

Democracy at that time was a revolutionary concept. It was untried, individual freedom, which was written into the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as a guarantee to all men, had never existed even to the few. Yet, today, we have that self same constitution, guiding us, the acknowledged leaders of all the Nations of the World and the defenders of the concept that man's individual rights are sacred and his beliefs are his to exercise despite my or your or any man's opinion.

During the time of War, I had the proud privilege of serving in the Armed Forces and it was my good fortune to see six European Countries, none of which compared to my own. I am grateful for this opportunity. What I owe to America, I can never repay.

It is useless for me to try to express the things I feel about this Nation of ours, but because it has been done so much better and so much more expressively by a former St. Paul mayor and famous newsman, Laurence (Larry Ho) Hodgeson, I will quote him here.

AMERICA

Discovered by Columbus, the Christ bearer—founded by men who prayed as they ploughed—born out of an unsurpassing passion for that liberty which will tolerate no chain upon limb or soul—dedicated in sacrifice at Lexington—baptized amidst bloody agonies at Valley Forge—fashioned and shaped by the pioneering struggles of men who conquered the wilderness for the purposes of God—purified in the flames of death which swept slavery from the land—stumbling onward with giant strength, often blinded, but never lost—often blundering, but never corrupted—often smitten, but never overthrown—and came at last in mighty honor to uphold the world in the day when enthroned blasphemy assailed the altars of God. In every day of trial, in every hour of menace, in every threat of disaster, America has risen to the need of men, to the salvation of the world, because in her soul was ingrained the living reverence for holy things which lifts a nation into the atmosphere of immortality above the temporary frivolities and failures, because America means the Faith and brought the Fathers to this Western World—the uplifted worship of Washington—the unfaltering prayer of Lincoln. America, christened at the altar of God, served by men who had talked and walked with God, cannot, for very ancestry, escape from God in days wherein the call of God comes to those who would make this earth His dwelling place.

—Laurence K. (Larry Ho) Hodgeson

MINNESOTA

Population 2,792,300; size, 84,068 square miles; capital, St. Paul, population, 287,736; largest city, Minneapolis, population, 492,370; state motto, "The Star of the North;" state flower, Moccasin flower; nickname, "The Gopher State."

MINNESOTA! Cool, northern woods, bountifully sprinkled with sparkling lakes! Tall, stately pines giving the appearance of protecting the stillness surrounding the lakes and many streams, the perfect retreat for sportsman and vacationer. Vast rolling plains, once the scene of historic Indian wars, fierce and bloody! Home of the powerful Gophers, one of the nation's best-known football teams! Universally known clinics and hospitals of the Mayo's, with some of the most efficient and thorough doctors in the world!

The 11th state in size in the Union, it is bounded on the north by Canada, on the south by Iowa, on the west by North and South Dakota, and on the east by Lake Superior and Wisconsin. The courses of three continental river systems are determined by an extensive water—parting in the north central part of the state. From this central elevation the land slopes off in all directions, although the highest point within the state's boundary is north of Lake Superior, in the Misquah hills, where the altitude reaches 2230 feet. The average elevation is 1200 feet.

The northern part of the Gopher state, except for the Red River valley, was a dense forest made up largely of white, Norway and jack pine and containing some birch, poplar, maple and oak. Today, aside from the forest reserves, much of the land has been cleared or the best timber cut.

The great Mississippi river finds its source in Lake Itasca in the north-central part of the state. Its principal tributaries are the St. Croix and Minnesota rivers, which furnish considerable water power as does the Mississippi itself.

The number of lakes estimated to be in Minnesota is over 10,000. Glacial action not only determined the direction and character of the rivers but also made the numerous swamps and lakes.

The annual average temperature of the state is rather low but it has great variation; the average range annually for St. Paul and Minneapolis is 119 degrees. In all parts of the state there is enough moisture for humid farming.

Within the territory which is now Minnesota there were two Indian tribes which were almost constantly at war. These tribes were the Ojibway or Chippewa, who lived in the heavily wooded northern part, and the Dakota or Sioux, who made their homes in the more open country of the south and west. The first white men known to have reached this territory were two Frenchmen, Radisson and Groseilliers, who may have come here on an expedition overland from Lake Michigan in 1655; however, it is more certain that they arrived here in 1659 on a journey southwest from Lake Superior.

Daniel Greysolon, Sieur du Luth (Duluth), is known to have visited here in 1679 when he set up the standard of Louis XIV at Mille Lacs. In 1680 he met three Frenchmen who had been sent up the Mississippi by La Salle. Accompanying this expedition was Father Louis Hennepin who had discovered and named the falls of St. Anthony (he later was the first to publish a description of the country). In 1689, a trader, Nicholas Perrot, proclaimed the sovereignty of France over the territory. He had established a fort on Lake Pepin in 1686. Fort L'Huillier was built at the mouth of the Blue Earth river at Mankato in 1700 by Le Seur, who had traded for many years on the upper Mississippi. Because of the death of the

energetic governor, Frontenac, who had encouraged these men, progress became slow and quiet and it was not until 1727 that another expedition reached the region.

At the close of the Seven Years war in Europe in 1763, the French ceded to England all of their possessions east of the Mississippi except the island on which New Orleans is located, and as a result of a secret treaty of the previous year, all of their possessions west of the Mississippi belonged to Spain. Fur-trading operations were carried on by both nations during the period of English and Spanish possession. After the Revolutionary war the English re-inquired their portion of the territory to the newly formed United States, but, because there was no force to push the English out of the northwest territory, the English flag flew over the trading posts of the Northwest Company in Minnesota until after the war of 1812. Through the Louisiana purchase, the western part of Minnesota was acquired by the United States.

A bill was passed by Congress in 1849 establishing the territory of Minnesota. A convention met in 1857 to draw up a constitution for the State of Minnesota; in the following year it was adopted and Minnesota was admitted to the Union with its present boundaries. During the time of the Civil war, there was a great deal of trouble with the Indians who felt that they had been wronged in the treaty of 1851. Settlers were massacred until Col. Sibley finally drove the Indians out of the territory and beyond the Missouri river.

The coming of peace marked the beginning of a new growth in Minnesota, and a basis was laid for steady growth in the following decades.

The name "Minnesota" was first given to the river and then to the territory. It is an Indian name, coming from the Sioux, meaning "cloudy," "turbid" or "invisible" water.

Minnesota is a great agricultural state. It holds first place in the production of barley and flaxseed, second place in the production of oats, rye and potatoes, fourth place in the production of corn and 14th place in the production of wheat. In the production of butter, Minnesota stands above all other states and is third in the production of milk.

At one time Minnesota was one of the leading timber states, but careless exploitation reduced the resources considerably. Iron ore comes from three distinct districts in Minnesota known as the Vermilion, Mesabi and Cuyuba ranges, named in the order of their discovery and development. Iron represent about 98 per cent of the total mineral output and is the only metal produced. The remainder is quarry products. As permanent building stone grew in demand, the quarrying of granite became of greater importance.

Minnesota, a beautiful state, is a fisherman's paradise. With countless lakes and streams, the vacationer is never at loss for a place to cast his line. The cool north woods are most refreshing in the warm months of the summer.—Reprint in part from the Modern Woodman Magazine.

A SHORT HISTORY OF FARIBAULT COUNTY

When did the eye of the white man first behold the beauties of Faribault County, Minnesota?

The question is one that no man living today can answer with exactness.

It is possible that when Le Sueur, explorer of New France, ascended the St. Peter's river, now the Minnesota, in 1700 and established Fort L'Huiller, at the confluence of the Blue Earth and St. Remy rivers, some of his hardy voyagers comprising the garrison of Ft. L'Huiller for two adventurous years, followed the water course leading to the lakes in the county, namely Lura, Minnesota, Rice, Walnut, Bass, Swan and Goose, and were first to behold its majesty and beauty. There is, in fact, historical substance to affirm the belief that Le Sueur's men did actually visit this region during their brief dominance of Southern Minnesota as a part of New France.

Certain it is that hardy adventurers from Canada, both in the period of its French domination prior to 1762 and subsequently, when it was an English possession, tapped the rich fur resources of Minnesota and may have established trading relations with the Indians hereabouts prior to the Revolutionary War. Louisiana, including of course Faribault County, was ceded to Spain in 1762 by a secret treaty, and continued to be Spanish territory for nearly 40 years. In 1801 it was re-ceded to the Kingdom of France.

Three European powers have exercised sovereignty over the territory which is now Faribault county: England, Spain and France. England's claim was based upon the explorations made early in the 16th century by the Cabots. Spain's claim was based both upon the discoveries of Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand De Soto, who discovered the Mississippi River in 1541. The French claim arose from the explorations of the upper Mississippi valley by missionaries and others.

Different states of which Faribault County and Minnesota have been a part, vaguely in some instances, are Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Wisconsin. There were also some claims to the territory by Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The United States Government recognized the Sioux Indian tribes as the real owners of southwestern Minnesota and procured the region from them by the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1851. By this agreement, all but a small part of that portion of Minnesota lying south of the Minnesota and west of the Mississippi, passed forever from the hands of the Red man; also a large section of central Minnesota, north of the Minnesota and west of the Mississippi.

The next known white men to see the region now Faribault County, were the surveyors, who had to do their work before the newly ceded territory was available for settlement. The surveyors to whom were entrusted the establishing of township and section lines in Faribault County were Crawford and Anderson and one other, whose signature is illegible, who surveyed the County in 1854.

The surveying being completed, and a United States land office established at Chatfield, Minnesota, land was thrown open to actual settlers under the Pre-emption Act. The Homestead law did not become applicable until April, 1864. Under the Pre-emption Act, patent to the land was acquired by payment to the government of \$1.25 an acre.

There was little settlement and very limited title to land acquired under the Pre-emption law. The real colonization of the county followed the enactment of the Homestead Act, which was made applicable in Faribault County in April, 1864.

The Civil War was then in progress, and there was practically no coloni-

zation in its early years. The population of the county, in fact, dwindled, as a large part of the men of military age left to serve in the Union Army.

However, a great influx of settlers began in 1864. They were largely soldiers, who had completed their enlistments and taken their discharge although the struggle was not yet ended. They also included a considerable number of widows whose husbands had died in the war and who were thus eligible to make homestead entry as the heads of families.

By far the greater part of the homesteaders of 1864 and 1868 were Civil War veterans. By 1870, the homestead land was practically all taken up, and much of it had been patented. Former soldiers enjoyed a great advantage in that they could acquire patent within less than the five year period of residence required on land under the Homestead Act. They were entitled to deduct from the five years the term of their military service, with the provision that one year's minimum residence was required. Thus a man who had served four years during the war was able to acquire free title to 160 acres of Faribault County land after having lived on it but a single year. There were many such instances. Homestead entries could only be made on the even numbered sections, excepting in each township, Sections 16 and 36, which were reserved as state school lands. The odd numbered sections remained a part of the public domain, and were disposed of later in various ways principally as land grants to railroads, and in turn, sold later by the railroads to actual settlers on easy terms at a minimum of \$5 an acre.

With 1878 came the Southern Minnesota railroad, and the first real boom the county experienced. With transportation available, there was incentive for the breaking of the prairies, the growing of wheat and other crops upon a large scale. Building material readily could be brought in and hundreds of new homes sprang up in every township.

By 1890 almost every quarter section in the county became a farm home. The 12 years preceding that date constituted a period of most rapid development. The railroad stations of Wells, Delavan and Easton had been established and afforded trading and market points within fairly convenient reach of all points of the county.

Further facilities for the expansion of the county's latent resources came with a great railroad boom in 1899-1900 with the building of the Rock Island and Northwestern Railroads. These new lines gave birth to a number of thriving villages such as Kiester, Frost, Walters, Bricelyn and Gucken. Inland villages such as Alton, Banks, Bassett, Clayton, and many others not known to the writer which had long played important roles in the social and commercial life of the county, began to wane as the railroads brought greater opportunity to the newer villages. With the establishment of these additional shipping points, nearly every Faribault county farm was located within 10 miles of a railroad.

There followed a decade of much activity. Vast drainage enterprises gave to cultivation thousands of acres of swamp land. Land values increased rapidly in the first decade of the present century. Nearly all fields were tile drained. New and modern farm buildings replaced the earlier structures. Highways were constructed. Splendid school buildings were provided in all the villages. Churches were built. Many manufacturing enterprises, some successful, many unsuccessful, were developed in the various towns. It was a decade of prosperity, the "Golden Age" of the county's history.

FARIBAULT COUNTY NAMESAKE

JEAN BAPTISTE FARIBAULT



J. B. Faribault

Jean Baptiste Faribault was born in Canada. At the age of 17 he entered on mercantile pursuits at Quebec and remained until 1796 when he yielded to his adventurous and active disposition and entered the Indian trade, engaging in John Jacob Aster's "Northwestern Fur Company" as an agent. He was sent to Mackinac first and soon after came to the upper Mississippi river and a brief stay at a post near the mouth of Des Moines river.

He carried on a trade with the Indians for about half a century, the last 40 years on his own account. He married, in 1814, a half breed daughter of Major Hanse, then Superintendent of Indian affairs. Mr. Faribault espoused the cause of the United States during the war of 1812 and lost many thousands of dollars, thereby, as well as narrowly escaping with his life on several occasions.

He labored all his life to benefit the red man, teach him agriculture and the arts of industry and how to protect his interests. He had an unbounded influence over many of them; his advice was never disregarded. He was prominent at all the treaties and councils and rendered the United States many valuable services.

He returned to this country in 1798. His career in this region was marked with more of adverse fortune than usually occurs even in the perilous life of an Indian trader. Shortly after the close of the war with Great Britain he was robbed by the Winnebagoes at Prairie du Chien of a large stock of goods for which he never received any remuneration. Some years subsequently he fixed his residence upon Pikes Island near Fort St. Anthony (now Snelling) and had barely established himself in his vocation of trader when he was forced by the mandate of the Commandant of the Fort to abandon his buildings and betake himself with his movable property to the bottom land on the east side of the Mississippi where he erected new tenements. The following spring the water which was unusually high carried off his houses and livestock. He and his family escaped in boats by means of which he was fortunately enabled to save his goods and furs from destruction. Still undiscouraged he built a house at the point now known as Mendota where he resided many years. During the winter months he assumed charge of his trading post at Little Rapids on the Minnesota River. He acquired a considerable fortune though having met with so many reverses. Mr. Faribault in the early days in company with General John C. Fremont and General Sibley visited this region of the country on an exploring and hunting expedition and they were near what is now the locality of Blue Earth. He died on August 20, 1860, and was at the time of his death the oldest resident of what is now Minnesota.

THE FARIBAULT COUNTY EARTHQUAKE

The following excerpt, from an old issue of the Winnebago Press, dated Nov. 15, 1877, gives a brief account of the only earthquake in Faribault county remembered by old settlers.

"The shock of Thursday, the 15th inst., was very distinctly felt by many of our citizens, and no doubt caused some of the more worldly minded to hastily glance at their balance sheets to see how they would stand when they would be called up for final settlement. It must have been a doleful outlook for those delinquents of ours. We have not seen anyone that can give us the exact time of the occurrence, but all agree that it was only a few minutes before 12 o'clock A.M. We were in our office in the second story of Union (brick) block, busy getting ready for press, and did not notice anything unusual. But many of our business men and other reliable citizens did observe it. who say the shock lasted from 20 to 30 seconds. S. J. Abott, Esq., says the two-story frame building, on the second floor of which he has his office, swayed back and forth one or two inches, from north to south. Mr. J. F. Winship, who was alone writing at a desk in the post office, reports about the duration of the shock, but affirms that his oscillating observations were from east to west. One gentleman, sitting in a buggy on the prairie, seven miles west of town, declares he heard the peculiar rumbling sound, and distinctly felt the trembling of the earth.

FARIBAULT COUNTY'S FIRST SETTLER

MOSES SAILOR



Moses Sailor

Moses Sailor was the first permanent settler of Faribault county. He was born in Monroe county, state of Ohio, in the year 1808, and was married at the age of 24 years. He always was a farmer by occupation. Immediately after marriage he emigrated to Elkhart county, Indiana, which was then quite a new and sparsely settled country. Here he continued to reside for 22 years. His wife died in 1849, leaving him with nine children. The baby, Manuel, was 10 months old at the time. He was reared on johnny cake and coffee and lived to the age of over 80 years.

In the fall of the year 1854 he emigrated, with his family, to Chickasaw county, Iowa, where he took up quarters for the winter in the village of Bradford. He found that the county there had already been mainly taken up and not being new enough to suit his pioneer tastes. Desiring to get lands for his boys as well as a home for himself, he decided to prospect further as soon as the weather would permit in the spring. Having heard very favorable accounts of the territory of Minnesota, he, near the first of April, 1865, in company with James Little and John Love, carrying their guns, provisions and blankets, started on foot from Bradford on an exploring expedition into Minnesota.

After a day's journey, neither roads nor settlements existed. Striking out boldly into the wilderness they directed their course by the aid of a pocket compass and a map for the head waters of the Blue Earth river, as that stream was somewhat indefinitely laid down on the maps of that time. The first point at which they struck the Blue Earth river was on the branch about two miles east of the site of Blue Earth. Here they stopped and built a fire on the eighth day of April, at about 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Leaving Mr. Little there Mr. Sailor and Mr. Love proceeded across the prairie for the west branch of the river to examine the timber and lay of the country.

After prospecting for a few hours and being much pleased with the country, they returned to Mr. Little. Then they all proceeded to the junction of the two branches of the river afterward known as "the forks." They were fortunate in finding near there a small, rough log cabin, on the north bank of the stream. It was very rudely built, quite low and not more than 10 by 12 feet in size and had evidently been built as a mere temporary shelter.

This cabin had been erected by Thomas Holmes of Shakopee, a famous explorer and town-site locator, in the early days of the territory of Minnesota. He was in this region in 1854, and erected this cabin with the intention of making a claim of the land adjoining with a view of eventually laying out a town in the vicinity. This he never did, however, but went so far as to employ two men, whose names are now forgotten, to go upon the land and who occupied this cabin a short time. But Mr. Holmes, not coming with provisions as agreed, they returned to Shakopee and the project of laying of a town was given up by him. This cabin was the first advance made in building of a human habitation, on the capacity and architectural style of an Indian tepee. It was the first house erected in the county. To return to our company, it being now nearly night, they concluded to camp here. This country at the time presented a very favorable aspect. The snow, of which there seemed to have been but little during the winter, had all disappeared. The ground was dry and the grass just starting to grow. The streams were very low and easily forded. A bright, warm sun, cloudless sky and a mild and balmy atmosphere welcomed our explorers to this new land.

The next morning they started northward to Mankato, exploring the timber and adjacent prairies and camped in the evening near Mankato, which they found to be a small village of some 15 houses, large and small, and a frontier hotel, where they stopped. This town had been laid out some three years before. Here they learned that it was currently reported that the Winnebago Indians, who were soon to be removed from their location in the more northern part of the territory, were to be located upon a "Reservation" on the head-waters of the Blue Earth river, in Faribault county. Should this occur, our pioneers would, of course, have to abandon any intention of settling in this county. They then proceeded to prospect the country for a few days on the Blue Earth, Maple and Cobb rivers, in Blue Earth county, with which they were highly pleased. At this time there were but a few scattered settlers in Blue Earth county and but one small village—Mankato. At an election held in that county, in the fall of this year, but 86 votes were polled. There were but a few settlers in Freeborn county, and this county and all the territory west, and northwest was vacant.

Being entirely satisfied with the country, our company returned by their former

route, through this county to Bradford and determined to move into Blue Earth county, in the vicinity of Mankato. In pursuance of this conclusion, Mr. Sailor, on or about the eighth day of May, started from Bradford with his family of children consisting of five sons, Jacob, Able, Daniel, William and Manuel and three daughters, Esther, Amanda and Roxina, all of whom subsequently remained here as residents of the county. He was accompanied by one Solomon Myers and Archibald Morris and family. They traveled in covered wagons heavily loaded with household goods and provisions, each wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, the great motive power of new countries. They had decided to settle somewhere on the Maple river, in Blue Earth county, and the route they traveled lay by Clear Lake, in Iowa, Walnut Lake and Minnesota Lake, in this county. This county as before intimated was then a trackless wilderness, no roads or bridges, no human habitations and the "trail" made in the county, by any settler. They stopped on the Maple river, about 10 miles from Mankato, where Mr. Sailor left the company in camp and proceeded to Mankato. Here he found that the Indians had selected their reservation in Blue Earth county. He then concluded to return and settle on the headwaters of the Blue Earth in this county. Mr. Morris decided not to accompany him and remained in Blue Earth county a short time. Mr. Sailor, accompanied by Mr. Myers, traveled on his return by the route he had taken when prospecting, there being no track or road, however, and on the 25th day of May, near noon, he had reached his journey's end and stopped where Blue Earth is now located.

On locating, Mr. Sailor proceeded to break up five acres of land upon which he planted corn and potatoes, camping in the meantime in his wagon and a large tent, which he had brought with him.

This sod produced plenty of "roasting ears," and fodder sufficient for one horse and a dozen hogs during the succeeding winter. The potatoes yielded abundantly and were of superior quality. After getting in his crop, he proceeded to erect a log house. This building was 18 by 24 feet and one story high and was completed in about a week, except the roof, which was partly covered by the tent cloth. This was the second house in this county.

Provisions now getting scarce, Mr. Sailor went about 120 miles into Iowa, for supplies. He was gone some 12 days and on return he finished his house, putting on a "shake" roof. This old house long since disappeared, but it was once the headquarters of the county—the only hotel, or stopping place in a vast region for sometime—the scene of many a hospitable entertainment and of many a frontier dance and social gathering in the early days. The boys set to work to break up some 10 acres more of land in the early summer and a small additional tract was broken in October, which did not prove valuable, as the sod instead of rotting, dried in tough strips and pieces like old sheep skins and lay about for some three or four years.

During the year many Indians, sometimes as many as 200, or 300, in a company, would call on Mr. Sailor, generally wanting tobacco, sugar, pork, and sometimes "fire-water," which he never let them have. In fact the country was full of small bands of roving Indians, who were engaged in hunting and fishing and sometimes on the warpath, but they were always peaceable and well disposed towards him.

In those days game and fur-bearing animals were very plentiful, especially wolves, foxes, mink, otter and elk, but few deer. There were squirrels, rabbits, gophers, prairie chickens, geese, ducks, cranes, some black bear, panthers, wild cats, wood chucks, muskrats and skunks, and the lakes and streams were stocked with fish. On his arrival he found no buffalo, but observed a stamping or herding ground near the state line, where a large number of buffalo had stopped during the preceding winter. During the year the health of himself and family was good, and the weather, until winter set in, usually pleasant.

He continued to reside on the land he first took up. His farm was largely improved by erecting a comfortable frame house and a large barn. Mr. Sailor was of medium stature, well built and had black hair and his long dark beard was well sprinkled with grey; dark eyes and dark complexion, and in his prime was a man of great muscular power and endurance—hard working and courageous. He belongs to that race of hardy adventurous pioneers, known only in the far west, who have the courage to abandon the advantages of old settled countries and go upon the extreme frontier, or plunge into the wilderness and amid want and hardships and privations, surrounded by many dangers, open up the ways of settlement and civilization.

He remarried in 1869, and passed his declining years in ease and comfort, strictly honest in his dealings, hospitable, and a Jackson Democrat. In the early days of the county, he served the public well and faithfully for some years as County Commissioner.

Mr. Sailor departed this life February 14, 1896.

OUR FIRST PEOPLE

Walter Mickelson, editor of the New Ulm Journal, spent a lot of time writing about the Indians. His friend, Frank Hopkins of Farifax, an eminent authority on Indians, was an ardent admirer of the Sioux Indian and had this to say about them:

"In many ways the Indian was superior to the white man, Hopkins claims. The Sioux Indian was almost a perfect physical specimen, averaging about six feet in height and the strongest Indian this country has produced. He took pride in his body and built himself strong.

"He valued his honor above his life. When he gave his word he kept it. The Sioux could not understand the white man who would make a treaty and then break it. Therefore when the treaty was broken the Sioux did not feel they had to keep it either.

"They never forgot a kind act or forgave an injury. When the Sioux went on the warpath many of them took great risks to warn or aid settlers who had befriended them. They hated the Chippewas who were more numerous and were always driving westward with the whites.

"Hopkins claims the Indians had a purer democracy than our own because they were constantly in tune with the rule of the universe which is Truth. They refused to lie because they felt then they would have to live with a liar. They did not steal because then they would be forced to live with a thief.

"They never killed more game or fish than they could eat and they never had the ambition to lay up worldly goods because whenever they had a surplus of food or clothing they would share it with someone who lacked these things.

"The Indians had a higher moral code than the whites. They never deserted a squaw or their children and although they might take more wives than one they always felt it a duty to support them.

"The Sioux were highly religious in their own way, believing if they misbehaved the Good Spirits would leave them and the evil Spirits would come to dwell in their bodies. They were convinced they would be judged on their good deeds on earth.

"As one looks back over the years he realizes the big Indian problem was the white man."

From the Indian's point of view probably Will Rogers, himself part Cherokee, once voiced their viewpoint when he said the biggest mistake the Indians ever made was when they let the Mayflower land at Plymouth Rock.

PHILANDER C. SEELY SEELY TOWNSHIP NAMESAKE



P. C. Seely

The township was named Seely in 1858 by the special commissioners honoring Philander C. Seely, who was born in Cayuga County, New York, in 1823. He emigrated to Wisconsin in 1846, and from there to this county in 1857. He married Miss Harriett Pratt, daughter of David Pratt. Mr. Seely was the first chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the town, and the first Justice of the Peace, being chosen to both offices the same year. He was also a member of the board of county commissioners, one term. He was elected to the office of Sheriff of the county in 1861, receiving every vote polled in the county. He served one term. When elected sheriff he moved to Blue Earth where he resided some years, but subsequently returned to his farm in Seely, and engaged in farming. He was in the military service of the U.S. and went South near the close of the rebellion.

Mr. Seely in his younger days took interest in politics and allied himself with the Republican party. He was the delegate to the free soil convention which assembled in Wisconsin, and was held in 1848. When the free soil party was organized in the State he supported Mr. Van Buren, the free soil candidate for president that year.



David Pratt

The first company of emigrants who located in this town was that of David Pratt and family, accompanied by P. C. Seely and family, and a number of other persons who all located here in the year 1857. They took up considerable land, and proceeded to make large improvements. Deacon David Pratt, the patriarch of the company, was a man of more than ordinary means, and with



Mrs. David Pratt

all and over all was an earnest Christian man who illustrated his profession in his everyday life and conduct. For many years the house of Mr. Pratt was the headquarters of the town, and the stopping place of the traveler, the immigrant, and the missionary, all of whom found here at all times the most generous hospitality. Mr. Pratt died in August, 1877.

FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN SEELY TOWNSHIP

IDA PRATT WOOD



Ida Pratt Wood

Mr. David Pratt, his wife, five daughters, and three sons traveled by ox team from Racine, Wisconsin, until they found suitable land (probably Government land) near the Blue Earth River. That site later became known as Clayton. The group lived in covered wagons until they could hew logs to build a house.

A son, Samuel Pratt, returned to their original home and married Helen Taylor. They came back to Clayton to live, and from this union Ida Pratt was born in 1857. Miss Pratt was the first white child born in this vicinity.

Ida recalls that there was lots of hard work in those days, but, also, plenty of good times. Her Grandmother Pratt made butter and packed it in barrels; then butter and other produce was exchanged (probably at La Crosse or St. Paul) for sugar and other necessities which they did not raise. There were good fishing and hunting near by, and plenty of wild strawberries and grapes.

Miss Pratt tells us that there was no Doctor nearer than Blue Earth City, and when a Doctor was needed, he was summoned by a person on horseback. There were many anxious hours when one of the family was sick.

At Grandfather David Pratt's home, worship service was maintained every Sunday, and all the neighbors were invited. Often many of the guests remained for dinner.

After her father died, Ida Pratt and her mother were taken, by team, to Mankato. From there they went by train to St. Paul; then by boat to La Crosse, Wisconsin. From La Crosse they went by trains to Mansfield, Ohio, where her Taylor grandparents lived. Later, after Mrs. Pratt was remarried, they moved to Tomah, Wisconsin, where Ida attended schools and joined the Baptist Church.

After losing her first husband, Ida worked in the following positions: House Director of the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago, had charge of a Y.W.C.A. in Chicago, conducted a summer resort in Michigan, had charge of the Margaret Etter Creche home in Chicago. The latter was a place where working mothers might leave their children for the day.

Ida Pratt married Charles H. Wood and resided in Evanston, Illinois, for some time. They are now living in the Weddell Memorial Baptist Home in Minneapolis.

Having made two visits to Bricelyn, Ida has seen many changes from the vicinity she knew. She also had a chance to become fairly well acquainted with relatives here—among which were Mrs. Emma Hunt, a cousin, who has resided in Bricelyn all her life.

This is just a brief biography of what must have been an exceptionally colorful life. Mrs. Ida Pratt Wood must have many wonderful memories, and she is wished much happiness from the people of this community.

FACTS ABOUT SEELY TOWNSHIP

First officers elected 1858: Chairman, P. C. Seely; side supervisors, Abraham Foster, Samuel Pratt; clerk, Willard Seely; assessor, David Pratt; justice of the peace, R. C. Seely; constable, James Pratt; treasurer, David Pratt.

First teacher—Miss Parizade Pratt.

First sermon delivered by Rev. Mrs. Judd (Methodist) in the log house of David Pratt, February, 1858.

First marriage—Abraham Foster to Miss Emily M. C. Murry on May 4, 1859.

First death—Samuel Pratt, January 5, 1863.

In 1860 there were in Seely township 85 acres of improved ground, \$2,000 valuation in farm lands, five horses, 16 milk cows, 16 working oxen, 13 other cattle and 20 swine.

The township of Kiester, then Lake, was attached to Seely by special commissioners in 1858 for town purposes and so remained until separated into a separate town in 1892. Brush Creek and Foster townships were also consolidated under one township board about that time, but they separated soon afterward.

FIRST SETTLERS IN SEELY TOWNSHIP

MR. AND MRS. JACOB SHIRK



Mr. Jacob Shirk

Mr. Jacob Shirk was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. At a very young age he enlisted for a four-year term in the U.S. Marine Corps. During this time he circumnavigated the globe as a member of Commodore Perry's expedition, and was present in Japan at the signing of the treaty in 1854 between the U.S. and Japan. He was discharged from the service in November, 1855, at Washington, D.C., and immediately immigrated to Clarksville, Iowa. The next year he immigrated to Faribault County, Seely Township, Minnesota, and arrived here about January 12, 1856; thus becoming the first white man to locate in Seely Township. He made the first improvements in the township,



Mrs. Jacob Shirk

in breaking up the land and erecting buildings.

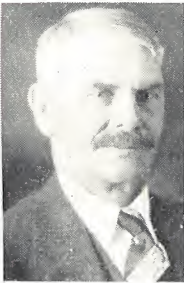
He married Miss Catherine Schneider in 1858.

When war between the States broke out he again heard duty's call and volunteered his services to his country, enlisting in a Minnesota regiment of heavy artillery. He served with honor and distinction on a southern battlefield.

At the close of the war he was discharged from military service and returned to his old homestead in Seely Township engaging in farming until his death July 15, 1895.

FIRST WHITE MALE CHILD BORN IN SEELY TOWNSHIP

JEFFERSON SHIRK



Jefferson Shirk

Jefferson Shirk was born March 8, 1860, at the old Shirk Homestead, in Seely township, 2½ miles northwest of Bricelyn, the eldest of 16 children of Jacob E. and Catherine Shirk, and the first white male child born in Seely Township.

He married Anna Daly in the year 1892 and they lived the first year at the home of his parents. Mr. Shirk was too industrious a person to be content being a hired man for long. In the second year of his married life he purchased the 160-acre farm across the road and to the south of his father's homestead and moved there that year. Here he lived all his life and reared a large and splendid family of nine



Mrs. Jefferson Shirk

children, namely, Harold James, Pearl Kathryn, John LeRoy, Jessie Mae, Zella Belle, Margaret Irene, Gerald Bruce, Donald Allen, and Merle Hugh.

Mr. Shirk was a progressive and prominent farmer specializing in the raising of purebred Shorthorn cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs, Shropshire sheep and Percheron horses. From his herd other farmers bought foundation stock to improve the quality of their herds. He improved his farm, and built a large, modern home which was one of the show places of the community.

Mr. Shirk held many positions of honor and trust. It is doubtful if any other person in the entire state of Minnesota can equal his long and honorable record of public service within a school district. He was elected a member of the school board for 40 consecutive years.

Mr. Shirk was a warm hearted and intelligent man who attracted to himself many friends by his active exercises of the most generous virtues and noblest impulse. He had great talents and most remarkable energy and was particularly qualified for his life chosen profession.

Some of Mr. Shirk's neighbors at times did disagree with him but no one who knew him ever challenged his sincerity of purpose, or questioned his deep-rooted convictions. To him it made no difference whether he was on the popular or unpopular side of the issue of the hour. He was always on the side he believed to be in the best interests of his neighbors.

Mr. Shirk not only won the affection of the people of his community but among all who knew him he inspired the respect which only complete confidence in a man's integrity inspires.

Mr. Shirk passed away Sunday, March 23, 1941. Interment was in the Clayton cemetery. Mrs. Shirk passed away Tuesday evening, October 29, 1935.

FRED WHELOCK RIKER



The Fred Riker family. Back row, left to right: Reuben, Hazel (Mrs. Floyd Story). Front row: Clinton, Mrs. Riker (Elizabeth), Fred, Purcell.

Northern Iowa Townsite Company. Here in his corn field would be built a city with a promising future. Fred became one of its leading businessmen who was to play an important role in the growth and development of the new town.

He served in many capacities in the building of this new town. Five years he operated the dray and livery business; owned and operated a milk route for several years; served 24 consecutive years on the school board; and for 35 years served as chairman of the Woodman lodge. He also sang in the church choir for 11 years. Mr. Riker was a public spirited citizen and took an active interest in every movement which promised to promote the moral and material welfare of the new town.

On March 24, 1887, he married Elizabeth Elmer of Wells. Four children were born to them, Hazel, Reuben, Clinton and Purcell.

Although Mr. Riker was born in Wisconsin, coming to Seely township at the age of three years, he always felt a tenderness as did Mrs. Riker, towards Seely township and Bricelyn. No other town seemed to be as beautiful and offer the attraction as did the town they helped build on their farm. Bricelyn was their home and the home of friends who had made life rich for them. It was the place where they wanted to some day sleep the last sleep as others of their blood took up the burden they lay down. It therefore, represented to them, not only the joy of the present but the hope of the tomorrow. They wanted Bricelyn to mean so much to others that they would value and honor these ideals upon which it was built and strive to make the atmosphere of their town human, kindly and noble, creating a citizenship that would serve the needs of men and inspiring each new generation with a clean devotion to the task of making the town a happier place to live in.

Mr. Riker passed away at his home January 28, 1943, at the age of 80 years. Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church, the Rev. L. J. Patterson officiating and interment was made at the Clayton cemetery. The Modern Woodmen held services at the grave.

Mrs. Riker followed him in death on July 22, 1949, at the age of 81 years. Funeral services were held at Bricelyn in the First Baptist Church on July 24th with Rev. S. P. Bell officiating. Interment was beside her husband at Clayton Cemetery. She was born Elizabeth Elmer in Clark Township, Faribault County, before Wells was established. She attended school in a little pink schoolhouse 3½ miles south of where that town now stands. She was a charter member of the Ladies' Aid Society and the first president of the W.C.T.U. Mr. and Mrs. Riker had observed their 50th wedding anniversary in 1937.

Fred Wheelock Riker was the owner of the land on which the Village of Bricelyn is now located. Following is a history of the man whose life and interests are parallel to the Village.

Fred Wheelock Riker was born at Portage, Wis., October 30, 1862. At the close of the Civil War, Fred's father (Ira M. Riker) decided to go to Minnesota to take a homestead. Fred was only three years old when the family made the trip across the prairie to establish a home in the Minnesota wilderness. While Fred was yet a very young man he purchased 160 acres of land adjoining his father's homestead on the south. He bought this land from LeRoy Green April 25, 1890. Later he purchased the old homestead making it a 320-acre farm which he developed into splendid farm where he resided until he retired from farming in 1927 and moved to the town he helped build.

In 1899 he sold 160 acres of this large farm to the Southern Minnesota and



K. O. SANDUM

First Editor—First Postmaster—First Village Clerk

Bricelyn's outstanding citizen and the motivating force behind much of the community's progress. Through the medium of the Sentinel, which he published and edited, he was instrumental in getting the village its first school, first opera house, first street lighting system and first sidewalks. He encouraged many of the town's first business people to settle here and during the time of his editorship, the Bricelyn Sentinel had the largest circulation of any newspaper in Faribault county.

K. O. SANDUM

On October 11, 1899, Knute Sandum received his appointment as postmaster and the office then absorbed the surrounding small post offices of Amund, Alton, Banks, Bassett, Clayton, Homedahl, Satre, and Sheridan.

Those were the days when rural mail delivery was under consideration in the country and the benefits from it to a village were much in doubt. In fact, the Merchants Association went on record against the system, claiming it would build up the mail order house to the detriment of the village merchant. The farmers hoped for the service but hardly believed that it would be possible to have a carrier bring the mail to their very door. Sandum wanted the farmers to have the advantages of this modern convenience and he wanted Bricelyn to have the benefit of the enlarged trade territory that would be created by making Bricelyn the "Hub" of as many routes as possible; hence, he drove the roads, laid out the routes, secured the approval of the department for three routes for Bricelyn. Frost, Kiester, and Walters each obtained one route. Rake none. This extended mail territory made for a bigger and more prosperous Bricelyn.

The earliest available record of the compensation of the Bricelyn postmaster was \$643.66 for the fiscal year June 30, 1901.

K. O. Sandum came to this country from Norway at the age of six. He spent his childhood days in a small log cabin in the town of Primrose, Dane County, Wisconsin; but was orphaned as a mere lad and at the age of 13 came to Minnesota. He married Cynthia Tressler at Blue Earth and both taught school at Amund and Rake, Iowa. Mrs. Sandum also taught in the Homedahl district. About this time the North Western Railroad was building from Mason City northwest and thus creating villages along its right-of-way. Sandum had learned the printing trade and was desirous of starting a newspaper. The savings of his wife from teaching, added to his own, amounted to \$600. and with this amount as first payment on a press, he launched the Bricelyn Sentinel.

The location of Bricelyn had been determined by the Townsite Company. It was to be in Fred Riker's corn field, but no one could locate there until after the lot auction on September 27, 1899. The promise of a railroad for this rich trade territory created a desire for locations for the various business enterprises. To be on the ground floor and obtain the best location was the aim of everyone. Sandum got his newspaper started in an old blacksmith shop near the Clayton store, about two miles in the north country, about a month before the lots were sold, and the attempt of another publisher who had the blessings of the Townsite Company to start a paper was abandoned when they noticed the Sentinel going ahead on full steam. Sandum bought a lot and erected a building where the drug store is now located, and moved the printing office from the Clayton blacksmith shop into this location.

The Sentinel venture proved a great success. Its able management and intensely interesting editorials created a large circulation and the enthusiasm of the Sentinel, backed by the live business men, combined for a mutual co-operation that made Bricelyn the liveliest, best little town in the county. The earnings of the Sentinel were invested in other enterprises until Sandum owned and operated at the same time four Faribault County papers; the Elmore Eye, Kiester Courier, Wells Forum-Advocate and the Bricelyn Sentinel and also the Hallock News and Mott (N.D.) Pioneer Press. That is what we call newspaper success from a start of \$600.

There is an old saying, "Nothing succeeds like success," and when the Directors of the First National Bank of Bricelyn needed a change in management, they elected K. O. Sandum as cashier and manager. He made the bank pay. He erected the Hub Clothing Store building and induced O. A. S. Johnson, then a clerk in Halvorson's store, to become a partner. Sandum also organized and operated the Bricelyn Mutual Telephone Company.

Besides sharing local political positions, Mr. Sandum had an appointment in the State Legislature for three terms, and later was on the Republican ticket for Governor of Minnesota.

Mr. Sandum resigned as postmaster and had two years left of his term. He is now living in Minneapolis, but is a frequent visitor to the "home town" that he helped to build in Riker's corn field.



MRS. K. O. SANDUM AND SON MARK

Cynthia Tressler was one of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Levi Tressler in Barber township, Faribault county, of English and Dutch ancestry. She was educated in the Blue Earth schools and taught school in the Amund, Rake and Homedahl districts, until Bricelyn emerged on the horizon and then she took charge of the postoffice and assisted Mr. Sandum in publishing the Sentinel.

Bricelyn people loved Cynthia for her sympathetic nature and ever helpfulness in sickness and distress. She had an encouraging word and pleasant smile for everyone. She died at the Sandum Twin Lake home in Minneapolis on May 4th, 1943, at the age of 70, and at rest in Crystal Lake Cemetery by the side of her son, Mark.

Bricelyn owes much to her untiring effort in its youth.

Mark Sandum, the only child of Knute and Cynthia Sandum, was a Bricelyn boy. He was born in Bricelyn and was baptized here by the Rev. Sondresen. He attended school here and in Minneapolis, also in Faribault at Shattuck. He was a brilliant young man and displayed much musical talent and sang in the choir at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. He passed on Feb. 7, 1925, at the age of 22 years.

THE INFANT VILLAGE OF BRICELYN



The infant village of Bricelyn. Note North Western Railroad station in center of the street. Station was destroyed by fire April 17, 1916. Present building erected same year.

FROM BRICELYN SENTINEL

Aug. 29, 1899

By K. O. SANDUM

When the Architect of this special world upon which we live had completed His work and had made the best of everything for the use of man—cattle, horses, sheep, swine, birds, animals of every kind, gentle and fierce; gardens, fields and flowers; foliage fair and fragrant, crystal waters cooling and refreshing; sunshine and shade, lights and shadows, everything beautiful and bewitching; manhood in all his strength; womanhood in all her graceful beauty; we say, when, the Architect had wisely made all these things in their glory and grandeur, and had looked around with utmost satisfaction upon all He had made, this thought occurred to Him: "One spot upon all this new earth that I have made I must make fairer, better, more fertile, more productive, more sightly, more beautiful than any other spot. But where shall I find such a spot? All are beautiful! Can I find one spot fairer than another? If so, where is it? Then He said, "This will I do. I will put My finger upon the map of the U.S. and where it rests, there shall be the garden spot of the world." So He put His finger down, and lo, when he had looked He found it had rested upon Faribault county, Minnesota, and immediately under His finger tip was Seely township. And He was glad and said, "It is well. No more beautiful, brighter or picturesque spot could possibly be found upon which to bestow special favors. I am pleased beyond measure. I will smile serenely upon this happy, though accidental, selection. I will hold great possibilities in store for it. When the hour is ripe I will bring them into the light. I will some day lead the destinies of commerce, trade and traffic of the world in such a course that this little spot shall become great. Railroads shall span its quiet bosom. The business of a city shall there be planted. Church spires shall rise and schools shall flourish. The young shall there grow rich in knowledge. Happy homes filled with contentment and smiling faces shall attract others seeking contentment, happy abiding places midst well-to-do and propitious surroundings. All shall be well with it and its future. I will cause the mellow sunshine to warm it and thrill it with the best of nature's life. I will send the invigorating showers to make the vegetation always fresh, green and abundant. I will send newspapers, the promoters of all things good. I will send teachers to lead the students up the hills of science. I will send preachers to preach the Word and care for the spiritual needs of the people I shall lead there. All these things Will I do and yea, more too, and all things good shall flourish in abundance and shall be nurtured as they need."



W.E. Brice

Founder of Bricelyn

BRICELYN NAMESAKE AND FOUNDER

W. E. BRICE

Bricelyn, like many another city in the United States, takes its name from one of the railroading pioneers who wove the West and Midwest into the nation with a webwork of steel rails.

W. E. Brice was one of Mason City's early businessmen, moving to that city in 1896 from a retailing business in Tama, Iowa. His vision was an electric railroad which he wanted to build between Mason City and Clear Lake to compete with the Milwaukee line which he and others felt was providing a hap hazard service.

With pledges of Mason City and Clear Lake Businessmen to use the new line for freight hauling and with the additional incentive of three good summer months of passenger traffic to the resorts on Clear Lake, Mr. Brice opened the Mason City and Clear Lake railroad on July 4, 1897, only a few months after the laying of the first ties.

Business boomed for the little line, and its five cars and locomotive were taxed to capacity hauling the passengers and freight. Naturally, however, the Milwaukee line fought the new line tooth and nail, and the railroad was forced to transship freight and passengers out of the city on the old Iowa Central, which was later absorbed by the Minneapolis and St. Louis.

This transshipment proved costly and was not entirely satisfactory; so the little railroad was faced with the alternative of providing its own out city transportation or going out of business. It chose the new line.

Surveyors were sent out northwest to Blue Earth and southeast to Belle Plaine to lay out the line for the new, Iowa, Minnesota and Northwestern railroad, as it was to be called. The survey proved the line was feasible, and the grade conditions were ideal.

Immediately, contracts were let for materials and construction work so that when actual work began nearly a year later, everything was in readiness. In the meantime, a gigantic shakeup in the steel industry resulted in the formation of the United States Steel company and nearly doubled the cost of steel rails.

At this point the Chicago and Northwestern railroad became interested in the venture. The large supply of steel rails held by the new line and the fertile farm land served by the route made the projected railroad a valuable piece of property.

The Chicago Northwestern purchased Mr. Brice's interest in the road and made him president of the new line. He also retained title to several town sites he had laid out along the right-of-way. Mr. Brice's construction superintendent, C. T. Dake, who had built the Clear Lake line, was retained to aid in building the new line. The line was extended by Northwestern to Fairmont along the route chosen by Mr. Brice in a preliminary survey. Mr. Brice had intended construction no further than Blue Earth, however.

Several towns along the line between Belle Plaine and Blue Earth were named for Mr. Brice and his associates. Bricelyn, of course, was named for the railroading pioneer, and until the Post Office department insisted on a change because of confusion with Bruce, the town actually was Brice.

The addition of the letters lyn to the town's name was suggested by Postmaster K. O. Sandum in honor of Mrs. Brice, who's name, he thought, was Eveilyn, but later it was learned her name was Minnie. This solved the dilemma to everyone's satisfaction. Bricelyn it has remained.

Other towns along the railroad named after early railroaders and their wives included Dike, Vorhies, Hanlontown, Cartersville, Hanford and Eleanor. Towns were also named for old settlers or for men from whom townsites were purchased.

Because of the electric plant which powered his first railroad, Mr. Brice became interested in electricity and he soon purchased the plant which supplied Mason City's power. This he expanded and improved and added a city gas service. He operated the two utilities until 1913 when he sold out.

Mr. Brice also developed a housing project in northwestern Mason City, hauling yellow pine lumber from Texas to supply his carpenters. That section of the city is still known as the "B and O" addition from Mr. Brice and his associate, Mr. Ong. Mr. Brice also used his Clear Lake railroad to supply Mason City with ice harvested from Clear Lake, and was active in many other enterprises.

Mr. Brice is justly credited with having contributed much to the early development of Mason City, but he deserves equal acclaim from all the rich farm communities served by the railroad he pioneered.



First train bringing supplies for railroad construction.

The first passenger train on the N.W.R.R. (Northwestern) passed through Bricelyn on Thursday, November 9, 1899, from Blue Earth to Lake Mills.

The first regular (passenger) train service commenced December 5, 1899, two trains a day. The train going east left Bricelyn at 7:57 a.m. and the one going west left at 12:54 p.m.

First train service on (Rock Island) railroad November 25, 1900. Mixed train between Lakota, Iowa, and Albert Lea, Minnesota. Train going west to Lakota, Iowa, leaving Bricelyn at 8:30 a.m. To Albert Lea leaving Bricelyn at 12:40 p.m.

The first Station Agent on (Northwestern) R.R.—F. W. White.

The first Station Agent on (Rock Island)—L. Polmateer.

The first Section Foreman on (Northwestern) railroad—Tom Woods.

The first Section Foreman on (Rock Island) railroad—John Perkins.

The first Operator Railroad Signal Tower—A. S. Bennett in charge from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. T. J. Baker, night operator. Salary, \$40.00 per month.

The first telegram sent by Fred Ripon of Slayton.

First railroad ticket (Northwestern) purchased by Mrs. E. C. Miller on December 3, 1899, destination Lake Mills, Iowa. Northwestern Railroad sold at Bricelyn station 411 passenger tickets for month of November, 1900.



This picture taken in 1899 shows Fred Riker cutting corn on the land on which Bricelyn was being built. Mr. Riker played an important role in the development of the new town built in his corn field.



BRICELYN

Bricelyn was first known as the Prattville community. Later it was called Seely and later named Brice in honor of W. E. Brice, one of the promoters and builders of the N.W. Road through Bricelyn and southern Minnesota. It remained Brice until October 10, 1899, when application was made for a post office. The postal authorities advised the town leaders that the name Brice must be changed somewhat so that the mail would not be confused with Bruce, Minn. At the suggestion of K. O. Sandum, lyn was added to meet postal requirements and in honor of Mrs. Brice whose name he thought was Evelyn. Later it was learned her name was Minnie.

Bricelyn is the only town in the United States so named.

Auction of town lots was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, September 27, 1899.

First Building and Loan Association—organized December 18, 1899, capital stock \$500,000.00. Commenced doing business January 10, 1900.

First Restaurant—W. A. Zuill, opened October 18, 1899.

First cook stove sold to Mrs. A. J. Foster by Fink & Lindeman Hardware Co.

First Chicken Hatchery—William J. Hanson, proprietor.

First Carpenter—Isaac Johnson.

First Barn—Isaac Johnson, owner.

First Photograph Gallery—John Simonson, photographer.

First Meat Market—S. M. Pratt, proprietor.

First Feed Grinding Mill—E. E. Salley, proprietor.

First Governor to visit Bricelyn—Gov. Van Sant.

First Garage—Eugene J. Pegg, proprietor.

First Buttermaker—Pete Westerlund.

First Coal and Wood Business—Ole M. Hauge, proprietor.

First Surveyor—Lincoln Clough.

First Feed Barn—Barbo and Holmen, proprietors.

First Clothing Store—Ike Soldosky and John Olson, proprietors.

First Hardware Store—Charlie Fink and Ernest Lindeman, proprietors.

First House—Built by John Leland for James Noakes.

First Jewelry Store—E. H. Hebert, proprietor.

First millinery Store—Miss Sime.

FIRST VILLAGE OFFICIALS, MAY 12, 1900



K. O. Sandum
Village Clerk



T. B. Vaughn
Councilman



A. P. Daly
Councilman



I. I. Lekness
Treasurer



C. L. Fink
Mayor



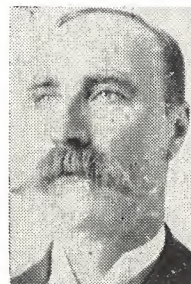
Andy Foster
Chief of Police
Street Commissioner



Theodore Morris
Councilman



E. K. Lindeman
Justice of the Peace



Lars J. Jelle
Township and
Village Assessor

Bricelyn became an Incorporated Village at an election on March 12, 1912. The vote was 44 in favor, 9 against.

PRESENT VILLAGE OFFICIALS 1949



Floyd Story
Village Clerk



Rudolph Peterson
Treasurer



R. R. Brownlee
Councilman



William Johnson
Councilman



George Marcus
Assessor



Carl Balzer
Mayor



Ellis Morris
Justice of the Peace



A. J. Mundae
Chief of Police



Clifford Bjerke
Councilman



Archie Cooper
Street Commissioner

EARLY CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS



Fishing on Main street in front of the Sentinel office where Manecke Store is now located. Ole Sorenson at the lower end of the first pole. Picture taken November, 1899.

Copied in part from the records of the Village Council:

First Meeting—May 21, 1900—

Voted to build a city lock-up 12x14 feet with two cells.

Voted to pay Police, A. J. Foster, \$35.00 per month. Police to be on duty from 12 noon to 12 midnight and longer if necessary. Police should not be allowed to drink intoxicating liquor while on duty.

May 28, 1900—

Petition asking Village Council not to grant liquor license was presented by Mrs. Fred Riker, Mrs. V. R. Hunt and Mrs. W. W. Reed. No action taken.

Voted to hire R. M. Hayes as Village Attorney for one year at a salary of \$25.00 per annum and an additional \$5.00 fee per each case pleaded for the Village.

June 4—

All male persons in Village were notified to call at the recorder's office to express their wish as to whether he wanted to pay \$2.00 poll tax or work two days.

Motion made by Theodore Morris, seconded by T. B. Vaughn that the council grant liquor license.

T. B. Vaughn, Theodore Morris voting yes.

K. O. Sandum, Peter Daley voted no.

Mayor Charles Fink broke the tie by voting for license. Three licenses were granted at \$1,000.00 each.

June 30—

Property holders in block 4 instructed to build in front of their lots, four-foot wide wooden sidewalks with plank stringers.

July 23—

Voted to buy city marshall a \$17.00 suit of clothes.

Voted to buy 400 feet of sawed beveled flagstone for village crossings from Mankato Store quarries at 20 cents per square foot laid down in Bricelyn. Rock to be three feet wide, six inches thick.

September 24—

Beginning October 1, Marshall's salary to be reduced \$15.00 per month and hours of duty being from 4 o'clock p.m. to 4 o'clock a.m. Marshall to keep the public crossings clean from mud and to have charge of street lamps.

October 31—

Voted to discontinue the marshall service effective this date.

January 21, 1901—

Voted to pay bills for building City Hall, \$818.73. This amount included lumber, labor for carpenters, masons, draying and plastering.

February 22—

Council members voted itself \$10.00 each for service rendered to the Village during the past year.

BRICELYN MAYORS AND CLERKS SINCE ITS INCEPTION

Mayor	Clerks
1900—Charles F. Fink	K. O. Sandum
1901—Theodore Morris	K. O. Sandum
1902—Nels S. Moen	K. O. Sandum
1903—C. E. Perkins	A. B. Ostrom
1904—E. R. Lindeman	E. E. Aldrich
1905—Fred Mundale	E. E. Aldrich
1906—Fred Mundale	G. O. Halvorson
1907—Elmer Steffenson	G. O. Halvorson
1908—Elmer Steffenson	G. O. Halvorson
1909—L. C. Adams	G. O. Halvorson
1910—Rasmus L. Mork	Emil Erdal
1911—O. E. Stewart	Emil Erdal
1912—Charles Lyng	Emil Erdal
1913—O. E. Stewart	Emil Erdal
1914—Christ M. Hanson	E. O. Lund
1915—Christ M. Hanson	E. O. Lund
1916—Lars I. Flo	John D. Reed
1917—Lars I. Flo	John D. Reed
1918—Christ M. Hanson	Reed resigned in June
	John G. Olson appointed
1919—Lars I. Flo	John G. Olson
1920—Andrew B. Elvestrom	John G. Olson
1921—Andrew B. Elvestrom	John G. Olson
1922—Christ M. Hanson	John G. Olson
1923—John D. Armstrong	John G. Olson
1924—E. R. Lindeman	John G. Olson
1925—E. R. Lindeman	John G. Olson
1926—E. R. Lindeman	John G. Olson
1927—Joseph A. Hawlish	H. M. Johnson
1928—Lars I. Flo	H. M. Johnson
1929—Lars I. Flo	H. M. Johnson
1930—Lars I. Flo	H. M. Johnson
1931—Edward O. Lund	H. M. Johnson
1932—Edward O. Lund	H. M. Johnson
1933—Arthur C. Lindeman	Floyd W. Berhow
1934—Arthur C. Lindeman	Floyd W. Berhow
1935—John D. Armstrong	Floyd W. Berhow
1936—John D. Armstrong	Floyd W. Berhow
1937—John D. Armstrong	Floyd W. Berhow
1938—John D. Armstrong	Floyd W. Berhow
1939—John D. Armstrong	Floyd W. Berhow
1940—John D. Armstrong	Floyd W. Berhow
1941—John D. Armstrong	Floyd W. Berhow
1942—Edward O. Lund (resigned)	Clifford Bjerke
1943—Andrew Mitbo, appointed by Council to serve unexpired term	Clifford Bjerke
1944—H. M. Johnson	Virgil Thompson
1945—H. M. Johnson	Bernice Hanson
1946—Carl Balzer	Bernice Hanson
1947—Carl Balzer	Clifford Peterson
1948—Carl Balzer	Clifford Peterson
1949—Carl Balzer	Floyd Story

FIRST MAYOR, FIRST HARDWARE MERCHANT

CHARLES L. FINK



Charles L. Fink

Charles L. Fink was born on the Fink homestead February 6, 1868, in Pickeral township, Freeborn County, Minnesota. He left home at an early age and was employed as a farm laborer. Being a young man of ability and sound judgment he mastered the art of farming in a comparatively short time and was soon able to take up farming on his own account. He had just celebrated his 21st birthday, when on February 13, 1889, he married Katherine Yost. To this union was born two children, Orville and Pearl.

Eleven years later, March, 1898, they moved to Albert Lea, engaging in the hardware business. One year later he decided to move to Bricelyn. Here he established himself in the hardware business with Ernest Lindeman as a partner, thus becoming the first hardware merchants in the new town of Bricelyn.

The public soon recognized in this new citizen his deep interest in public affairs and his ability for leadership. They proceeded to elect him mayor; thus he became the first mayor of Bricelyn. To date Mr. Fink holds the distinction of being the youngest person elected to that office at the age of 31.

Few men have enjoyed as did Mr. Fink that unqualified attachment and esteem of his fellow beings which primed the distinction of his career. His instincts, thoughts, desires and sympathies fitted him perfectly for his business pursuit and the office of Mayor. Faithfully and honestly he performed his duties as a man and a citizen. He had the wealth of those sterling traits which made him a credit to the office and his town.

Mr. Fink was a man of no ordinary mould. His mind was clear, direct and logical, never sacrificing the substance for personal gain. No matter what the circumstances may have been he was able to cope with any problems which did arise.

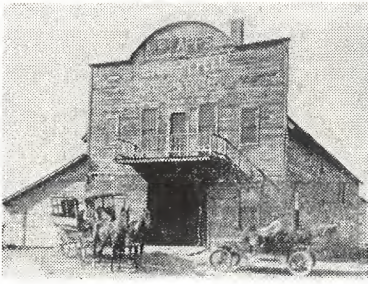
Bricelyn was fortunate in having a man like Mr. Fink at the helm of its city government for he steered a true course and his abilities won him a high place in the estimation of all with whom he came in contact.

After a long day of useful and noble activity he entered into his rest on the first day of November, 1939. Among those, who by his presence, wished to bear witness of their deep appreciation of the personality, character and achievements of Mr. Fink at the time of his funeral were a large number of friends from distant places as far away as California.

Interment was made at the Bricelyn Lutheran Cemetery close to the town which he loved with a tender and touching devotion.



Early picture of the town Mayor Fink helped build.



First Livery Barn located on corner south of the Creamery.

First Doctor—I. F. Hull, M.D.
 First shoe repair shop—Knut Sandheim.
 First Veterinary—J. N. Ackerman.
 First Music Teacher—Amelie Legvold.
 First wagon shop—W. A. Chase, proprietor.
 First Barber—Cyril M. Stockdell.
 First Produce House—Hans Kruger.
 First Law Office—E. E. Remington.
 First tailor shop—Casper Towe, proprietor.
 First Moving Picture Theatre—Earl Adams.
 First Farm Implement Dealer—Isaac Flo.

First officers of Woodmen Lodge—L. J. Bennet, Consul; Pete Daly Advisor; A. M. Schanke, Clerk; J. N. Haugen, Banker; Andy Foster, Escort; A. L. Bassett, Watchman; A. Thompson, Sentry.

First Fraternal Order—Modern Woodman: Venerable Consul, Art Bassett; Secretary, Fred W. Riker.

First harness and leather store—Theodore Morris.

First wedding—Alton Rendall and Bertha Bassett, February 4, 1900.

First Hotel—A. A. Anderson and Isaac Holmen, proprietors. Miss Lena Hauge was the popular hostess for several years.

First Lumber Yard—Northern Lumber Co., Bennett, agent.

First Livery Stable—Ed Legvold, proprietor.

First Dray Line—Andy Foster and Lee Delack.

First Filling Station—City Service, George Marcus, manager.

First Elevator—Minnesota Elevator Company, T. B. Vaughn, Manager.

First grain bought—December 3, 1899, from Lars E. Bolstad, near Rake.

First Flour Exchange—Andrew B. Elvestrom, owner and manager.

First soldier killed in World War II—Lt. Arnold R. Froom, July 11, 1943.

First bulk station and oil truck operator—Charles O. Timmons.

First Veteran of Foreign Wars Commander—Vern Hughes.

First soldier killed in World War I—Pvt. Nels Lee, Nov. 10, 1918, near Peuvillers, France, struck by a machine gun bullet, died while he was being taken to a first aid station.

First soldier commissioned from the ranks in World War II—Howard Anderson. From Private to Lieutenant Colonel.

First prescription issued on September 28, 1900, by Dr. Nelson to Mrs. Fred Riker.

First Sunday School Convention held at Baptist Church on Saturday and Sunday, December 16 and 17, 1899.

First Lutheran Sunday School teachers—Rasmus Havnen, Christ Lyng, N. S. Moen.

First W.C.T.U. organized November 12, 1899. Following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Fred Riker; Vice-president, Mrs. Dockam; Secretary, Mrs. K. O. Sandum; Treasurer, Miss Ethel Bassett.



First Hotel built where the Farmers Lumber Yard is now located.

BRICELYN LIVING PIONEERS MORE THAN 90 YEARS OF AGE



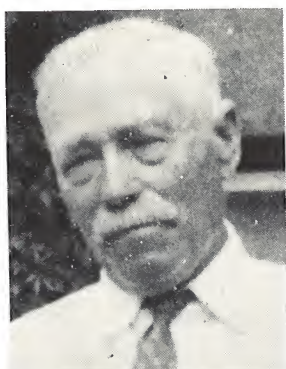
Mrs. Holsten Loen. Age 93. Born in Nordfjord, Norway, Dec. 20, 1856. Immigrated to U.S. and Faribault County in 1868.



Mrs. Ida Pratt Wood. Age 91. First white child born in Seely township. Born August, 1858.



Mrs. Henry Malene Hanson. Age 92. Born Sept. 25, 1857, in Nordfjord, Norway. Immigrated to U.S. in 1869, coming directly to Faribault County.



L. K. Fosness. Age 90. Born Sept. 22, 1859 in Nordfjord, Norway. Immigrated to U.S. in 1880. Opened second retail store in Bricelyn in 1899.



Andrew Thompson. Age 94. Born in Sogn, Norway, 1855. Immigrated to U.S. in 1865. He supplied foundation rock for most of Bricelyn buildings at \$1 per load.



John Almie. Age 94. Born March 9, 1855, in Meraker, Trondheim, Norway. Immigrated U.S. in 1876, coming directly to Faribault County, Minn.

FIRST CHILDREN BORN IN BRICELYN



Phillip Lyng and Ruth Daly

BRICELYN LIVING PIONEERS MORE THAN 80 YEARS OF AGE



Front row, left to right: Mrs. Darwin (Laura) Reed, Mrs. Ed. (Elizabeth) Reed, Mrs. N. O. (Maren) Nelson, Mrs. Lars (Betsy) Lund, Mrs. J. J. (Solvie) Folven, Mrs. Ole (Lettie) Olson, Mrs. Fred (Lizzie) Riker. Back row: Mr. John Almlie, Mr. Lars Jelle, Mr. Tom Moiskness, Mr. Sam Thompson, Mr. Mr. Andrew Loen, Mr. Andrew Elvebak, Mr. John Meland, Mr. Otto Savick, Mr. Clem Johnson. Front row, left to right, age range from 87 years to 81 years. Back row, age range from 94 years to 80 years.

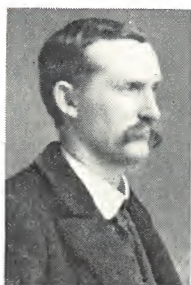


Front row, left to right: Mrs. Peter (Louise) Peterson, Mrs. V. R. (Emma) Hunt, Mrs. Peter (Martha) Langsev, Mrs. Sam (Tena) Thompson, Mrs. Amund (Thora) Halverson, Mr. George Anderson. Back row: Peter Peterson, Ole Houge, George W. (Maj) Smith, Andrew Lium, Peter Langsev, Andrew Northwick, John C. Johnson, Ernest Salley. Front row, left to right, age range from 87 years to 80 years. Back row, age range from 84 years to 80 years.

Picture at top of this page was taken October 9, 1948. Picture below taken October 28, 1949. The following named persons 80 years and over were not present when these pictures were taken: Mrs. Tom (Christie) Peterson, Mrs. Bert (Sarah) Wangen, Mr. William Larson, Mr. Edward Hove, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Peterson, and Mr. T. A. Thompson.

THE NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Contributed by Leona Timmons)



Rev. Ezra Temple,
First Pastor



Bricelyn Baptist Church



Rev. S. P. Bell,
Present Pastor

In this busy rushing age, the age of the atomic bomb, jet propelled planes, rocket trains and fast automobiles; when a speed of less than 50 miles an hour is considered slow by the modern youth, it might be well for us to stop for a few minutes and look back to those who blazed the trails over which we speed so swiftly.

We will go back in thought nearly 100 years when a company of people left their comparatively comfortable homes in Wisconsin and in the spring of 1857 came by ox team and covered wagon across the trackless prairies of the territory of Minnesota, as Minnesota was not a state at that time.

They settled on the east branch of the Blue Earth River and prepared to make a living.

However, these Christian people missed their former church services and felt the need of Christian instruction for their children, and so the following years, on Dec. 19, 1858, they met at the home of Deacon David Pratt and decided to organize a church.

The charter members comprised six women and two men. Samuel L. Rugg, his wife, Maria Pratt Rugg, his mother, Elizabeth Rugg, Samuel Pratt, Helen and Parizade Pratt, Harriett Pratt Seely and Melissa Pratt Raymond, the mother of our Mrs. V. R. Hunt.

Deacon David Pratt and wife were visiting in the east so did not unite with the church until the following spring.

Because of the many by the name of Pratt living there, the settlement became known as Prattsville, and the church was called the Baptist church of Prattsville, the name by which it was known for the next twenty years.

For the first six years services seem to have been intermittent and irregular but in 1864 Samuel L. Rugg was licensed to preach, and two years later he was ordained a minister of the gospel.

He served the church faithfully and well for 18 years, then resigned but still preached at times, and five years later he again became pastor and served for over 2 years, thus rounding out a pastorate of over 20 years.

During the first 15 years of the church 150 members were added to the church roll, over 106 by baptism. It might be well to mention here that 30

members withdrew to form the Walnut Lake Baptist church and later another 16 members withdrew to organize the Rice Lake Baptist church. The Walnut Lake church continued to function for 23 years, the Rice Lake church for about 7 years, the members either moving away or being absorbed into the present Rice Lake Evangelical church.

Early in the 1870's a railroad was built and the town of Wells laid out. Soon country post offices were established, supplied by horse and buggy carrier from Wells.

Clayton being the name given to the post office at Prattsville, the name of the church was changed in 1878 to the Clayton Baptist church, and was known by this name for approximately the next 20 years.

For about 40 years services had been held in the schoolhouse, first a log building and later a good sized frame structure, but in the summer of 1897 the present church was built, located about a mile north of here.

In the summer of 1899 the Northwestern railroad was built, and the town of Brice, later changed to Bricelyn, was laid out.

The Baptists soon obtained a lot in the new town, and that same year, the fall of 1899, the church was moved into town, thus being the first church in town. The name was again changed to the First Baptist Church of Bricelyn.

Rev. Ezra Temple was the first pastor after the church was moved into town. He served for about a year and left to become a traveling Evangelist, self styled "Tramp Preacher" as he spent the rest of his life on the road, preaching wherever he was in churches or on street corners, visiting every state, and crossing the continent several times. He passed on only a few years ago.

Rev. Wilkin was next and his 3½ years of service here with his fine wife left a happy memory to all who knew him. He left to become a missionary to the Indians in Oklahoma, a place he filled for 40 years or more.

The talented Rev. Curry came for a year and left taking Dean Jennie, the daughter of Abraham Foster, as his bride.

Next Rev. Callahan was pastor for 3 years, succeeded by Rev. Darnell for 2 years. During his pastorate the church observed its 50th anniversary with three days of meetings.

Rev. C. D. Allen and wife, Rev. Alice Allen, next preached here and at Blue Earth for 4 years and during their ministry 12 were baptized into the church.

Rev. J. R. Murton came in 1915 and that summer the parsonage was built and he and his young wife were its first residents.

Rev. Nichols was pastor for 1½ years, succeeded by Rev. Dewey and wife, both ordained ministers, for 1½ years.

In 1923 Rev. A. M. Whitby became pastor for four years, succeeded by H. A. Breeze, editor of the Bricelyn Sentinel. He combined both duties for 2 years.

Rev. George A. Alborn was the next, remaining for 4 years. During his pastorate the church observed its 75th anniversary in 1933, with an all-day meeting and 10 pastors participating.

Rev. Whitby was again called in 1935, serving for 6 years, resigning because of failing health.

Again we were without a pastor for 7 months, when Rev. L. J. Patterson became pastor in March, 1942, serving for 6 years, leaving last April 1, 1948.

Since July 4 we have been served by Rev. Samuel P. Bell.

According to the records, Rev. Rugg served this church the longest time, over 20 years. Rev. Whitby is next with 10 years for his two pastorates, which resulted in the addition of 33 members, 26 by baptism and 7 by letter.

Next in time of service is Rev. Patterson, whose 6 years here added 19 members to the church, 12 by baptism and 7 by letter. These were "Times of Refreshing" indeed. This church has never been large in numbers, but a spark of that Divine fire that was in the hearts of those pioneers has been handed down from generation to generation, and still burns in the hearts and lives of those of today.

Rev. Bell's short time with us has been a busy time, a time of preparation for the harvest to come. Under his leadership the church has taken on a modern look, being remodeled and redecorated inside and out. A new oil burning furnace has been installed and the dining room enlarged and redecorated. The church proper has been covered inside with the new fibre board, and the woodwork revarnished. New modern front doors have been put in, the pointed steeple removed, a large dark wood cross put on the front of the square steeple, and all repainted.

To climax this work, Victory Day was observed Nov. 21, beginning with a banquet Saturday evening and three services on Sunday. He was assisted by Rev. Lewis and wife of St. Paul. At the closing of the evening service a novel offering was given. A clothes line was strung across in front of the pulpit, and all who wished to, came to the front and pinned their offering on the line. When it was counted, it was found that it amounted to \$3042.

The members of this church, especially the older ones, feel pride in the history of these 90 years. Proud that for nearly a century it has stood, "A Rock in a Weary Land," glad that through its ministry more than 300 souls have been led into a Christian life. Happy in the present, and hopeful and prayerful for the future.

Before Christmas, an automatic record player was installed in the church with a loud speaker inside, and three amplifiers on top of the steeple. Christmas records were played each evening before the holidays. This was given by Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Johnson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Wilcox, Mrs. H. M. Johnson's parents.



Ninetieth Anniversary of Baptist Church—Observed December 12, 1948.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FIRST NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

The Blue Earth Evangelical Lutheran congregation was organized October 17, 1864. Its first minister was Theo. Johnson who has now lived in Nicollet county for many years. In 1867 T. H. Dahl, a graduate of St. Louis took charge of the congregation and remained its minister until 1888. He at first had his home at Jackson, Minn. His congregation being small, there was no parsonage. In 1869, 12 acres of land was bought from Stener Mikkelsen near Dell, and a parsonage was there built. In the same year the congregation resolved to build two churches—one in the northern part at Dell, and one in the southern part at Skjolden's place.

Because of the regrettable "naade valgesstrid" (dispute about the predestination), 1881-1885, the congregation became split, and one part, the "Schmidtians" not quite agreeing with the old creed, dissolved their connection with the old congregation and started a new one. After a considerable fight over the property this new congregation bought the church and parsonage at Dell. This took place in 1890. A couple of years previous to this, Rev. O. Skattebol from Hollingdal, Norway, accepted a call from the congregation.

In 1894, Rev. Skattebol, due to ill health, resigned and moved to Tennessee. His successor was S. Sondresen, a graduate of the University of Norway. He had, previous to this, charge of the congregations in Wells, Delavan and Jackson.

In 1891, a piece of land consisting of 36 acres, close to the south church was bought of O. N. Holmen and a fine up-to-date building was erected thereon for a parsonage. The previous year the old church at that place was moved and a new one built which cost about \$4,000. During the same year the congregation resolved to part in two: North Blue Earth and South Blue Earth. The North congregation, having sold their church, for about five years held their religious services in farm and school houses, as "in the days of old." In 1895 they built a fine church at a cost of about \$3,000. It was located near P. Langenes' place in the town of Brush Creek. A small part of the congregation living in the southeast corner who would not unite with the others in building this church and in connection with a few neighbors organized and started a new congregation (East Blue Earth) of the same confession of creed and in 1895 built a church of their own. This church was situated on the farm of Ole Anderson. It cost in the neighborhood of \$2,500.



Rev. S. Sondresen
First Pastor



Bricelyn Lutheran Church



Rev. Einer Jorgenson
Present Pastor

BRICELYN LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Copied from Church 50th Anniversary Booklet)

East Blue Earth congregation was organized December 13, 1895. The following year a church was built on land purchased from Ole L. Anderson located about two miles north of what is now the village of Bricelyn, Minn. Those instrumental in organizing East Blue Earth congregation were: Mado Christopherson, Ole Seltun, Severt Johnson, Samuel Loen, Ole L. Anderson, Ole Johnson Langeness, Stenus Johnson, John Loen and Andrew Loen.

The village of Bricelyn was started in 1899. With the growth of this village it soon became apparent that the logical location for the church would be at Bricelyn. Accordingly, in 1900 the congregation decided to move the church, which was done in the early spring of 1901, before the river reached flood stage. By early summer the church was on its new foundation and in use. Rev. S. Sondresen was pastor. A short time later Rev. Sondresen was granted a leave of absence for one year to visit Norway. During his absence Dr. N. A. Larson served. Upon his return Rev. Sondresen continued to serve the congregation until the later part of 1911. Rev. K. R. Palmer was then called and served until the merger of Bricelyn's two congregations in 1918.

Bethlehem congregation was organized by Rev. N. Okerlund July 5, 1911. Present at this meeting were Ole E. Legvold, in whose home the meeting was held, Thomas M. Thompson, Knute H. Johnson, Christ Steffens, Sam M. Thompson, Sam S. Thompson, Fred M. Thompson, Ole Berkeland, Sr., and A. Michalson. Divine services were conducted in private homes for some time, later the Baptist church was used until about a year before the merger, when the East Blue Earth church was used. Rev. N. Okerlund served the congregation until early in 1917. A Rev. Heidal then served a few weeks temporarily. Rev. O. M. Hanson succeeded him, serving until the merger with the East Blue Earth congregation in 1918.

After more than a year of negotiations East Blue Earth congregation and Bethlehem congregation were united to form the Bricelyn Evangelical Lutheran Church December 17, 1918. Rev. C. J. Eastvold, President of Southern Minnesota District, was present, assisting in the proceedings. First officers elected were: President, A. B. Elvestrom; Vice-President, C. Steffens; Secretary, N. S. Moen; Treasurer, J. G. Olson; Trustees, R. J. Havnen for three years, Fred M. Thompson for two years, C. M. Hanson

for one year; Deacons, H. E. Legvold three years, O. A. S. Johnson two years, Sam S. Thompson one year. Miss Tillie Aamodt was elected Sunday School Superintendent, J. B. Peterson, assistant.

Rev. Palmer and Rev. Hanson having resigned, Rev. Omar Bremne was called to serve the new congregation, dividing his time equally with Trinity congregation of Blue Earth. Rev. Bremne served until the latter part of 1921. Rev. Alfred Bredeson succeeded him, taking charge March 19, 1922, and continued to serve until Dec. 31, 1930. During Rev. Bredeson's pastorate Trinity Lutheran congregation asked for permission to become part of the Bricelyn charge. This was accepted and the Trinity congregation has been with us since 1924, loyally and faithfully fulfilling their part and obligations. In the early part of 1931 Dr. J. R. Lavik succeeded Rev. Bredeson. During Dr. Lavik's first year the church was enlarged and a full basement placed underneath the entire church. Nov. 29, 1931, the cornerstone was laid and the remodeled church dedicated by Dr. Kleven and former pastors of the congregations. Neighboring pastors were also present.

About 1935 Dr. Lavik was elected to serve as District President of Canada District and was granted a two-year leave of absence. Rev. G. O. Wanberg, a recent graduate from our Seminary, was called as temporary pastor. He was ordained here. Upon his return Dr. Lavik continued his work until Sept. 1, 1939. He was called to head our Seminary at Saskatoon, Canada. Rev. Einar Jorgenson was then called and began his work Oct. 1, 1939, serving until Jan. 28, 1943, at which time he was given leave of absence for the duration of the war to serve as chaplain in the armed forces. He served as army chaplain in the Pacific area until his return in the fall of 1945. During his absence the congregation was served temporarily by Rev. Wold from Wells, Rev. John Mason of Forest City, Iowa, Rev. S. Tverberg, a missionary to Madagascar home on furlough, and Rev. A. N. Brudvig of Scarville, Iowa. Rev. Jorgenson resumed his duties as pastor Oct. 1, 1945.

Very few of the charter members of East Blue Earth congregation remain with us today, only three remain and they are: Mrs. S. A. Johnson, Mrs. John Loen and Andrew Loen. Several who were confirmed at the time of the organization but too young to be classified as charter members are: O. A. S. Johnson, Mrs. Dora Odden, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Christopherson, Mrs. Juhl Johnson and Carl Johnson, the latter now residing in the state of Washington. Many more who might be mentioned, who were younger, are with us, and continue faithfully in the footsteps of their forebears.

Charter members of the Bethlehem congregation still living are: Mrs. Thomas Thompson, Mrs. Knute Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Sam M. Thompson, Mrs. S. S. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Berkland, Sr. Of those who were confirmed at the time of the organization the writer has but one name: Mrs. Christ Christenson. Undoubtedly there are more, but, as yet, we have not been able to determine.

As an interesting sidelight, may we be permitted to mention that during the years 1945-46 Bricelyn Ev. Luth. congregation has collected for expenses, missions and other benevolences \$12,205.07 of which \$9,742.85 has been used at home or sent to the proper treasurers. Besides this a building fund for a new church has been begun with \$7,962.15 in cash and unpaid pledges of approximately \$5,000.00. Present membership of the congregation is 583 baptized members.

Addendum—Rev. H. O. Mosby ably served the Bricelyn Ev. Luth. Church in the interim between Rev. Bremne and Rev. Bredeson—1921-1922 and again between Rev. Bredeson and Dr. J. R. Lavik.

BRICELYN LADIES AID SOCIETY

The East Blue Earth Ladies Aid, which is now the Bricelyn Lutheran Ladies Aid, was organized in the spring of 1896, while Rev. S. Sondresen was pastor. Some of the ladies of the congregation, realizing the need of a ladies organization, traveled by horse and buggy from home to home, in an effort to interest other members of the church in organizing a Ladies Aid Society. This resulted in an organization with a charter membership of 10 which was as follows: Mrs. Ole L. Anderson, Mrs. Mars Christopherson, Mrs. John Emerson, Mrs. Carl Johnson, Mrs. Severt Johnson, Mrs. Stenus Johnson, Mrs. John Leon, Mrs. Samuel Loen and Mrs. Ole Seltun. Mr. Ole Johnson Langeness was also very much interested in this Ladies Aid Society. He attended the meetings regularly and always insisted on paying 50 cents for his dinner.

The first president was Mrs. Ole L. Anderson and the first secretary-treasurer was Mrs. Mars Christopherson. The Aid held its meetings every two weeks, serving dinner at noon. Each member paid 25 cents whether present or not.

The receipts from the first sale and dinner held in June of 1897 amounted to over \$100.00. This money was used to pay for the church bill and to aid in other church expenses.

In the winter of 1901 the East Blue Earth Church was moved into Bricelyn, and the ladies of Bricelyn joined the East Blue Earth Ladies Aid. The new members were: Mrs. Ella Ellingson, Mrs. A. Elvabak, Mrs. L. K. Fosness, Mrs. G. G. Halvorson, Mrs. Ole Hauge, Mrs. R. J. Havnen, Mrs. Isaac Johnson, Mrs. C. Lyng, Mrs. Nannestad, Mrs. Sabo, Mrs. Torkelson, Mrs. Chris Walle. Mrs. Chris Lyng was elected president; Mrs. Ole L. Anderson, vice-president; Mrs. R. J. Havnen, secretary, and Mrs. L. K. Fosness, treasurer. The meetings were held in the homes, lunch was served in the afternoon and dues of 15 cents were paid. About this time the ladies purchased an organ for \$112.00, as well as equipment for the basement, such as a stove, kitchen utensils, chairs and tablecloths. The first dinner served in the basement, as a means of raising money, was on October 2, 1912.

The Ladies Aid held its first regular meeting in the church basement, January 15, 1914. The same year was the last one in which the records were written in the Norwegian language.

On March 7, 1919, the Ladies Aid of the East Blue Earth congregation of the Bethlehem Ladies Aid met at the Bricelyn Lutheran Church for the purpose of reorganizing congregation. With Rev. Omar Bremne acting as temporary chairman, and R. J. Havnen as temporary secretary, a constitution was proposed and duly adopted. The following were elected for a term of one year: Mrs. A. B. Elvestrom, president; Mrs. N. H. Johnson, vice-president; Mrs. T. M. Thompson, secretary, and Mrs. Emil Erdal, treasurer.

Thus was born the present Bricelyn Lutheran Ladies Aid. The object of this congregation was to support and further Christian work within the congregation, aid the poor and needy and support the Home and Foreign Missions and the charitable institutions and schools of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

The Bricelyn Lutheran Ladies Aid, together with five other Aids, served the banquet and other meals at the Norfjordlaget held in Bricelyn June 18, 19 and 20, 1919.

November 18, 1920, was the first time a committee of six members served as Aid. The meetings were now held on the third Friday of each month. The president presided at the meetings and devotion was conducted by

the pastor. A business session was held and the secretary recorded the minutes.

In May, 1924, the W.M.F. Circuit Convention was held in our church. This was a three-day session and the Ladies Aid was divided into three groups with one group serving each day. The first calendars for the Aid were printed in 1925.

The Mission Circles of the Bricelyn Ladies Aid were organized in 1930. At the beginning of the year there were six circles with an average membership of 12. Later in the spring, the seventh circle was organized. The meetings were held once a month and 15 cents was charged for the lunch. The money received from the circles was all given to missions.

From its beginning, the Bricelyn Lutheran Ladies Aid has moved and in activities, endeavoring by the grace of God to be true to the objectives for which it was organized. Beginning with a membership of 10, it has increased to 115. Through the 50 years of its service, the Aid has contributed to various projects of our church, such as Home and Foreign Missions, support of the schools of our church and also the various W.M.F. departments. In recent years Christian Nurture has been stressed and devotional books presented to the newly married couples in the congregation. Financial support has been given to the mission cottages, Bible camps and Lutheran World Action, as well as all current pleas as they have been presented from the W.M.F. headquarters.

During the war years our pastor, E. Jorgenson, served as chaplain in the United States Army from January, 1943, to October, 1945. The Ladies Aid kept in contact with the men and women of our congregation who were serving in the armed forces of our country, by means of letters, cards and gifts.

Locally, the Aid has contributed to the purchase and upkeep of the church parsonage as well as the upkeep of the church parlors, kitchen and its equipment.

The following have served as presidents of the Ladies Aid: Mrs. Ole L. Anderson, 1896-1901; Mrs. Chris Lyng, 1901; Mrs. Isaac Flo, Mrs. C. C. Walle, Mrs. A. Gullixson, 1912; Mrs. D. Dedrickson, Mrs. O. A. S. Johnson, 1915; Mrs. Nels Highland, 1916 and 1920; Mrs. C. M. Hanson, 1918, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1929; Mrs. A. B. Elvestrom, 1919; Mrs. O. M. Hanson, 1921, 1935 and 1936; Mrs. A. M. Johnson, 1922; Mrs. John Olson, 1927 and 1928; Mrs. J. B. Peterson, 1930 and 1931; Mrs. N. S. Moen, 1932, 1933 and 1934; Mrs. Theo. Moen, 1937 and 1938; Mrs. J. R. Lavik, 1939; Mrs. Edwin Ellingson, 1939; Mrs. Emil Flo, 1940, 1941 and 1946; Mrs. M. B. Hanson, 1942 and 1943; Mrs. P. J. Flo, 1944 and 1945; and Mrs. Oscar C. Johnson, 1946-47; Mrs. Oscar Johnson, 1947-48; Mrs. Clifford Bjerke, 1949.

THE CHURCH CHOIR

For many years the church choir has assisted in the worship of the congregation by leading the congregational singing and presenting a special anthem at the morning service. Frequently it has presented sacred cantatas during the Christmas and Easter season. One of the early choir directors was Dr. W. R. Starbuck who was active in choir work until the time of his death. Junior choirs had been organized by both Mrs. A. Brede-son and Mrs. E. Jorgenson.

THE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The Willing Workers Society was organized by Miss Aamodt from her Sunday School girls about the year 1918, and has continued under her guidance until the present time. At first the garments which the young girls made were sent directly to institutions of charity; in later years an annual sale has been held and the proceeds used in various ways for the extension of the kingdom. The present membership is about 40.

The Young Peoples Society, now the Luther League, was organized about the year 1913 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. Gullixson. At first the meetings were attended by young and old, providing an opportunity for worship and fellowship for the entire congregation. In later years the League membership has been limited to those of high school age. Meetings are held every other week. The present membership is about 25.

The need of an organization which would include the boys of pre-confirmation age had long been felt. Accordingly, in January, 1946, a Junior Luther League was organized by Mrs. J. A. Bernards and Mrs. Ing Erdal and has been under their supervision since that time. Its membership includes the boys and girls from ages 10 through the senior confirmation class. The Junior Luther League meets every other week and the present membership is about 50.

THE DORCAS SOCIETY

The Dorcas Society was organized about the year 1914 with Miss Tillie Aamodt as the first president and Miss Emma Gullord (Mrs. George Lee) as the first vice-president. The Rev. K. R. Palmer, wrote the constitution and by-laws. There was a membership of eight the first year.

Since its first year the Dorcas Society has met every other Tuesday evening alternating with sewing and devotional programs. In the fall of each year an annual sale is held at which the sewing or handwork is displayed and sold at auction. In connection with the sale a dinner or lunch is served. During the year ice cream socials and food sales are held. Two-thirds of the money taken in by the organization is given to synodical activities and the remainder is used in the local congregation.

During the 33 years of its existence the following have served as presidents. Some names may be omitted from this list as full historical information is not available: Tillie Aamodt, Ella Jelle, Julia Monson Bernards, Tena Halvorson Marcus, Theresa Ramse, Mrs. Oscar Erickson, Lillie Thompson Anderson, Mrs. J. R. Lavik, Gladys Lewis Johnson, Lucille Sampson Ellis, Mrs. E. Jorgenson, Luella Halverson Johnson, Helen Gullord, Mrs. Shirley Payne, Mrs. Floyd Thompson, Mrs. Lawrence Flo and Mrs. Clarence Johnson. The present membership is about 65.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The command of our Saviour to feed his lambs is an obligation which this congregation has taken seriously. The history of the Sunday School is a record of the unselfish devotion of many consecrated Sunday School teachers and staff members. One of the early Sunday School superintendents was Andrew Elvestrom who was succeeded by Nels Moen. Among others who are known to have had charge of the Sunday School are Miss Tillie Aamodt, Ole M. Hanson, Sr., J. B. Peterson, John Olson, Alfred M. Johnson, Mrs. Theo. Moen, and the present superintendent, A. G. Sampson. Mrs. Nels Moen was organist for the Sunday School for many years. At the present time there are about 170 enrolled, with a staff of 20 teachers; the classes range from two kindergarten classes to the high school Bible classes and the adult Bible class. The work of the Sunday School has been supplemented each summer with a term of vacation Bible School.

TRINITY LUTHERAN AID

No community is stronger than its Faith, the Trinity community has a strong and proud heritage of religion; its church and church organizations go back to the very founding of the community.

Among the foremost of the church organizations in Bricelyn vicinity is the Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid, whose history goes back in an unbroken succession of meetings for over 60 years. The Aid was organized in 1887 at the urgent encouragement of the then Pastor, Emil Christensen, who had found the ladies of the congregation unenthusiastic and pessimistic about the chances of such an organization.

Finally, a young lady, Larsine Hauge (Mrs. Rasmus Olson) agreed to get the ladies together and act as supervisor. From the start, the organization was a success, though the first few meetings were still tinged with pessimism that the venture would not succeed. The ladies met at the John Elvebak home, and nine became members: Mrs. John Elvebak, Mrs. Dedrick Hauge, Mrs. John Hauge, Mrs. Martin Hauge, Mrs. Ole Fure, Mrs. Lars Flo, Mrs. J. Folven, Mrs. Rasmus Olson and Mrs. Iver Mork.

Meetings were scheduled for twice a month, and a monthly fee of 10 cents was voted. At the first meeting dinner was served at noon, and lunch was again served before the ladies left for home in the evening. The ladies also voted to buy cloth for the purpose of sewing children's garments, and the supervisor afterward drove 22 miles in an oxen-drawn wagon to purchase the goods—a \$3.00 purchase.

Meetings were always opened with a devotional exercise, conducted in these early days by the supervisor, because the pastor could not always travel the great distance to the meeting. This beautiful custom has been carried down to the present time, when each meeting is opened by a devotion by the Aid President, the Pastor or his wife.

An old Scandinavian hymn, "Hvor Deilig Skal Guds Kirke Staa," (318 I Synodens Salmebog) was sung at nearly every meeting, until the ladies depended upon it for inspiration and guidance. And as they sang and prayed the organization grew and prospered.

After a year and a half, the ladies had finished many children's garments and two very pretty quilts which they innocently decided to raffle off to secure more money for material. After many numbers were sold, Reverend Christensen told them he did not approve of getting money in that manner, and made the organization promise to refrain from using that method of raising funds in the future. The promise has been kept up till this time.

The first sale was held in the Lars I. Flo home, and afterwards an election was held. Mrs. John Elvebak was elected president and Mrs. Ole Hauge was elected secretary. Each officer served a two-year term.

In 1917 when the church was rebuilt, the Aid donated \$200.00 to the building fund and provided a new plush carpet and plush altar fringe, candle holders, two large chairs, six small chairs and many other items at a total cost of \$700.

An annual bazaar is held each year with the proceeds divided between missions and church maintenance. Boxes are sent at Christmas to orphans homes and other charitable organizations. In 1917, 30 years after they had organized, the Aid gave Mrs. Emil Christensen, Seattle, Washington, \$50 in appreciation for the faithful services to the congregation during the pioneer period by her and her husband. Mrs. Christensen is the wife of the first pastor of the congregation and organizer of the Ladies Aid.

Similar gifts and bequests, in increasing amounts have been given regularly up till the present time by the steadfast and faithful ladies who still carry on the traditions of the courageous nine founding mothers.

BRICELYN'S FIRST BANKER INGVARD I. LEKNES



I. I. Lekness

Research into Bricelyn history reveals that the name of an outstanding youngster whose name was stamped on several early enterprises, was that of I. Lekness.

He came to Bricelyn when it was still an infant, and he helped convert his dreams of progress and his ideals of wealth and success into a rich and thriving community.

A banker, a grocer, and a community leader, he passed out of community life in the early 30's but the imprint of his ideals and activities are indelibly stamped on the history of this city and community.

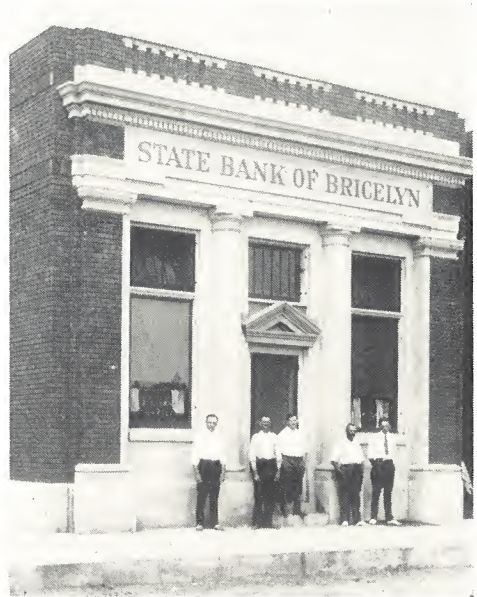
Our first banking institution was known as the Farmers Bank of Brice. Later Ross, Chadbourn and Company, well known throughout Minnesota, took over in a building nicely arranged for their business. With a responsibility of \$250,000, I. Lekness, a bright young businessman, formerly of Sacred Heart, Renville County, became cashier and local manager. He came with a firm belief in the future of Bricelyn and gave generously and ably of his time and talent for the town and the institution for which he worked.

Later this bank became the Bank of Seely which is now known as the State Bank of Bricelyn.

The second incorporated banking home was originally named The State Bank of Bricelyn and was organized by David Secor, W. E. Brice, J. S. Ulland, and A. M. Schanke. At the time of its consolidation this institution was known as the First National Bank. E. E. Aldrich succeeded Schanke as cashier, and K. O. Sandum succeeded Aldrich.



The third building erected by the State Bank of Bricelyn, now used as a post office.



The present State Bank building and fourth bank building erected by this institution.

STATE BANK OF BRICELYN



E. O. Lund

Representatives of the leading bankers in this part of the State who have played such an important role in the growth and development of Bricelyn and community are E. O. Lund and P. J. Flo of the State Bank of Bricelyn. They have long been an important cog in the wheel of this strong financial institution which stands as a pillar of strength in the community.

The State Bank is one of the strongest banking institutions in the County. Its management is composed of prominent



P. J. Flo

and conservative men who have successfully guided it to its present enviable position. Its outstanding policy has been one of accommodation and service to its customers. It is liberal without recklessness and conservative without smallness. This policy has been a dominant factor in building the large clientele now enjoyed by this institution.

Mr. Lund became associated with the Bank in 1911; during this time he has performed many useful and varied services to the community and the State. He has served 22 years on the City Council, 20 years on the School Board, 19 years on the Church Board, 17 years on the Canning Factory Board, also a term in the State legislature. Mr. Lund is not only highly esteemed as a public official, enjoying the confidence of the people, but also as a man of greatest integrity and moral character.

P. J. Flo started his banking career as bookkeeper in the Farmers Trust and Savings Bank at Buffalo Center, Iowa, in 1915, and became associated with the State Bank of Bricelyn in 1916. He has served on the City Council, as trustee of the Lutheran congregation, and for 24 years as treasurer of the local Legion post. Mr. Flo possesses one of those admirably organized minds so rarely met with, in which different qualities of excellence are so harmoniously blended and tempered, without an undue excess of any, so as to produce on the whole one of the finest characters in the community.

The community is fortunate in having men like Mr. Flo and Mr. Lund at the helm of its Bank, their abilities have won them a high place in the estimation of all with whom they come in contact.

GEORGE S. SMITH

Many a Bricelyn resident today owes his start in life to the business acumen and the trust of one of our early community bankers, who thought a young man with determination and character was sufficient collateral for a loan.

He came to Bricelyn from Blue Earth in 1910 and purchased an interest in the First National Bank, which he managed for 17 years. He sold out that interest in 1924 due to ill health, but he had already made himself a popular and admired figure.

He served on the village council, on the school board, and was extremely civic minded. He would not take an assignment unless he was convinced that he could carry it off well. He was also an active political force in the community for years.

His greatest compliments were paid him by community residents, who in seeing him pass, would comment, "There goes the man that gave me my start."



G. S. Smith



K. O. Sandum,
First Postmaster

BRICELYN POSTOFFICE HISTORICAL DATA



(Petrina Fibelstad)
Mrs. Alfred Mundale,
First Post Office Clerk

Post Office established—October 11, 1899.

First mail to reach Bricelyn office came over from G. D. Bassett, inland post office located on the farm now owned by Oscar C. Johnson.

First Rural Carrier on Route 1—Pedar S. Pedarson was appointed regular carrier December 2, 1901. Salary, \$500.00 per year.

First Rural Mail Carrier Route 2—Richard Paulson appointed temporary carrier May 2, 1904. Salary, \$600.00 per year. Gilman B. T. Larson appointed regular carrier August 1, 1904. Salary, \$720.00 per year.

First Rural Mail Carrier Route 3—Bertin Larson appointed temporary carrier May 2, 1904. Salary, \$600.00 per annum. George W. Manley appointed regular carrier August 1, 1904. Salary, \$720.00 per year.

First letter mailed at Post Office by Nels S. Moen.

First Post Office box rented by H. P. Hanson, Box No. 1.

First Railway mail service established for Bricelyn March 26, 1900, between Blue Earth and Mason City, Iowa.

First mail brought in by train April 1, 1900.

Three mail routes laid out by K. O. Sandum January, 1904.

First rural mail delivery Monday, May 2, 1904.

Three rural routes—Population served, 1,585; area, 88 square miles; length of routes, 85½ miles; number of stops, 317.

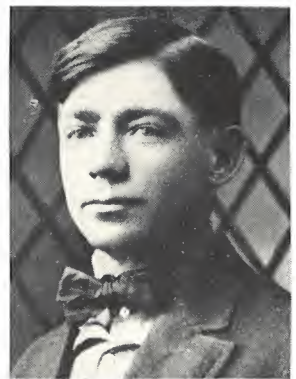
Bricelyn Post Office authorized to issue money orders beginning April 2, 1900.



Pedar S. Pedarson,
First Rural Carrier, Route 1



Richard Paulson,
First Rural Carrier, Route 2



Bertin Larson,
First Rural Carrier, Route 3



Left to right: O. C. Fink, Oscar Flo and Minnie Gestie.



Left to right: E. G. Highland, Minnie Gestie, John Fibelstad, Orville Fink, Oscar L. Flo.

During the first fifteen days of May, each year, it is required of every Post Office in the United States to keep an accurate count of the number of pieces of R.F.D. mail received and dispatched at each office, and to record each piece of mail as to class. The count for the Bricelyn Post Office in 1949 was as follows:

Received per day, all class—approximately 1,700 pieces.

Different issues of newspapers and magazines received at this office—

- 28 different daily issues
- 134 different weekly issues
- 114 different monthly magazine issues
- 2 different semi-weekly magazines
- 1 quarterly magazine issue

279 total different issues of newspapers and magazines

Note: This is not the number of newspapers received at the office, but the different publications. Nor does it include the number of newspapers transferred to other Post Offices en route.

Our rural mail route carriers serve 1,612 patrons, drive 90 miles per day into two States, and eight townships. The two carriers together deliver on rural routes per month, 45,684 pieces of mail, all classes.

10,558—First Class

16,742—Third Class

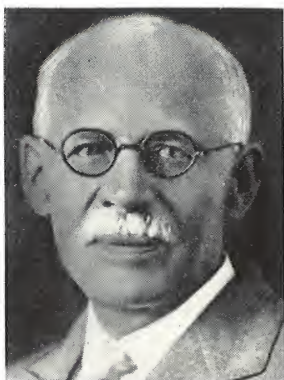
17,274—Second Class

1,108—Fourth Class

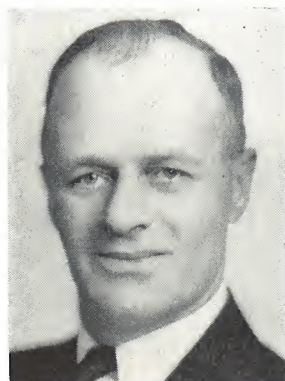
The biggest day in the history of this Post Office in the Money Order Department was July 11, 1929, when a \$1,243.74 business was transacted.



Post Office staff of 1912, left to right: A. . Mundal, Gilbert Paulson, Ole Njos, R. L. Mork, Ida Gunderson.



E. R. Lindeman



A. C. Lindeman

THE LINDEMAN FAMILY AND BUSINESSES

THE LINDEMAN FAMILY AND BUSINESSES

The Lindeman name has been associated with Bricelyn since the village founding in September, 1899, when Ernest R. Lindeman and C. L. Fink purchased lots in the original town plot sale.

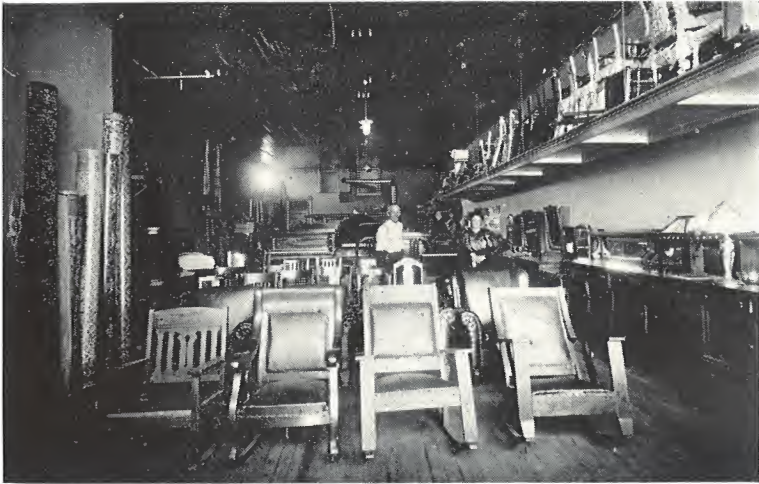
On their new lots, the two former Albert Lea residents erected a building which still stands and is in use by the Land O' Lakes produce company. With the building finished, Mr. Lindeman hitched his team to a sleigh and went over to Albert Lea, picked up his family, and came back to Bricelyn.

Lindeman and Fink opened Bricelyn's first hardware store in their new building. In 1901 they built an addition on their store and opened a furniture store in that under the name of Fink and Lindeman.

Still later the enterprising pair purchased the adjoining Gilbert Halvorson building and started a general merchandise store under the name of



The Lindeman Stores—1910



Interior of Lindeman Furniture Store—1901

the Bricelyn Mercantile company. This became one of the largest retail establishments in southern Minnesota.

The partnership was eventually dissolved and Fink took over the grocery department which he subsequently sold to Balzer and Haber, and Lindeman went back into furniture and hardware dealing and undertaking.

The two Lindeman sons, Manville and Art, were taken into the firm by their father in 1919. Ernest Lindeman died in 1931 and Art assumed management of the furniture and undertaking while Manville took over the hardware end of the business.

Manville disposed of the hardware business, but Art remains in business today, the only Bricelyn businessman who is carrying on an enterprise founded by his father during the first year of village existence. He is still in the original building, built as a furniture store.

The remainder of Bricelyn's business places have all passed out of the possession of founding families.

Art married Marie Woods, December 17, 1913, and the couple now has three grown children. Mrs. Lindeman enjoys the distinction of being an early community resident and is the only early resident who is today engaged in business in Bricelyn.

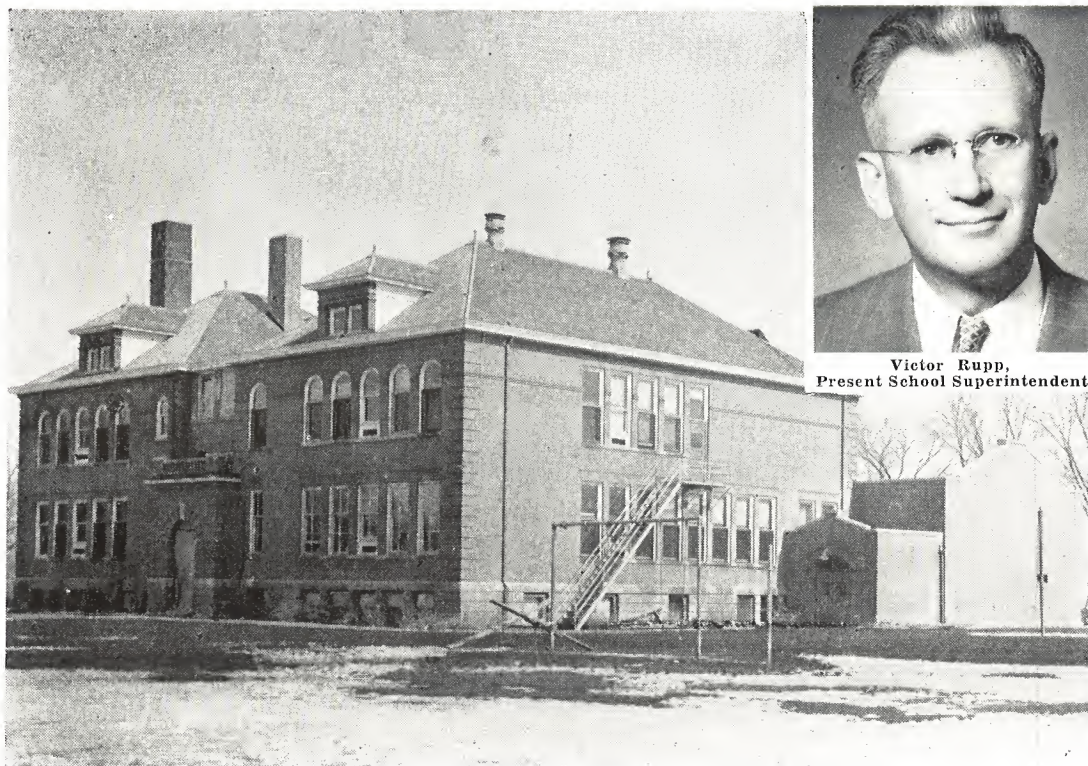
Art's son, Donald, and his son-in-law, James Olson, who married his daughter, Audrey, are both employed by the Lindeman firm. The other daughter, Mrs. Madeline Schmidt, is nursing supervisor in the Naeve hospital in Albert Lea.

Mr. Lindeman through all of his life has been very active in civic and church affairs. He served for years on the local school board, was a member of the council and mayor of the village. He was president of the Commercial club. He is now president of the Lutheran Brotherhood and served as president of the congregation of the local church.

The writer's first recollection of Art Lindeman was as a catcher on the Bricelyn baseball team. When Art caught for outside teams he earned \$20 a game. He played baseball for many years.

In the undertaking profession, Art has few equals and he enjoys an area wide reputation.

The community, for its part, has been fortunate in having a family so civic minded since its founding days.



Victor Rupp,
Present School Superintendent

THE BRICELYN SCHOOLS

The first schools attended by the children of the village of Bricelyn were those in the rural communities. A few of the pupils walked to the Clayton school while some attended a rural school about two miles south of town. The first public school in Bricelyn was housed in the Shirk Hall in the fall of 1900. The school occupied the second floor of this building. Lund's Bakery now occupies Shirk Hall. On the sixth of March, 1901, the school moved into the present village hall. On June the seventh, 1901, the following committee was appointed to meet with the county commissioners relative to the establishing of a school district in Bricelyn: H. O. Hanson, E. R. Lindeman, A. E. Wilcox, R. J. Havnen, L. K. Fosness and Ludvig Johnson. The school was approved by the commissioners and on July 27, 1901, the village voted to hold an eight-month school and employ two teachers. The city hall was partitioned into two rooms, and Miss Stella Page and Miss Emma Langworthy were hired as teachers. School was continued in the city hall until the new building was completed. February 21, 1903, the village voted to build a new school which was dedicated November 20, 1903. The present bell was purchased by donations. The building as it stands today was constructed at three different intervals. The south half and the school gymnasium were added to the first school building which was constructed in 1903 by Casper Lepper at a cost of \$10,000.

No record exists in the school files stating the faculty employed until Mr. Joseph Reichert was superintendent.

The first school in the Bricelyn community was taught by Miss Ethel Nichols of Winnebago, Minnesota, before district 132 was established.

THE BRICELYN SCHOOL, 1916-1932



Stella Page,
First Teacher



Joseph Reichert,
First H.S. Superintendent



Emma Langworthy,
First Teacher

Mr. Reichert began his work as head of the school with beginning of the fall term of 1916. That was the year that the school was organized as a full four-year high school. That year there were only 28 enrolled in the high school, including the first girl, Ruth Daly, born in Bricelyn.

As the addition to the school building had not yet been built, conditions were very crowded. The fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades were located in a rented building up town. The high school pupils were located in the room later occupied by the seventh and eighth grades. The laboratory equipment for chemistry was located in the upper hall and the laboratory work was done there. That year chemistry was the only science offered to the junior and senior pupils. The following year, with more room and more equipment, physics was also offered. The former office room was quite large and was used as a recitation room for the smaller high school classes. There were three high school graduates the first year, Cecil Shirk, Ruth Daly and Esther Peterson. The combined high school and eighth grade graduation exercises were held in the old village hall. The second year there were five high school graduates.

Although bonds had been voted, and the plans drawn for the addition to the building; construction did not begin until the spring of 1917. By late October of that year the building had been completed so that the high school could move into its new quarters and the classrooms up town could be vacated.

As, at that time, the Bricelyn school was the only school doing four years of high school work for a considerable radius; the neighboring villages not yet having established high schools, the school drew a large number of pupils from outside the district. Besides the graduates from the neighboring rural schools there were a large number of high school pupils attending from Kiester, Frost, and Rake, Iowa. One year the total number of non-resident high school pupils (grades 9-12) reached 72.

The high school assembly room soon became too small. By cutting through the wall, the recitation room at the rear of the assembly room was added to that room. Later on, aisles were narrowed so as to accommodate an extra row of desks. Desks crowded close to the front blackboards in front and the aisle along the east windows was occupied by desks. The largest enrollment reached in the high school during the years 1916-1932 (pupils in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades) was 124 and the largest graduating class was 29.

NAMES OF SCHOOL FACULTY SINCE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS ESTABLISHED

It is impossible to state which grades the teachers were in charge of before the school year of 1916-1917. The faculty employed is as follows:

- 1900-1902—Stella Page, Emma Longworth
 1902-1904—Miss Norton, Stella Page
 1904-1905—Stella Page, Hattie Holland, Miss Merman, Mr. Graham
 1905-1906—Stella Page, Hattie Holland, Miss Peterman, Tress McLaughlin
 1906-1907—Miss Baldwin, Hattie Holland, Tress McLaughlin, Mr. Gilbertson
 1907-1908—Alice Bretzke, Miss Foster, Miss Peterson, Mr. Goor
 1908-1909—Alice Bretzke, Miss Alexander, Miss Peterson, Mr. Roe
 1909-1910—Miss Russell, Miss Johnston, Miss Addie Sprague, Miss McKnight
 1910-1911—Miss Russell, Miss Jorgenson, Miss Clarkin, Miss Marie McKnight
 1911-1912—Miss Russell, Miss Jorgenson, Miss Hultz, Miss McKnight
 1912-1913—Miss Russell, Mrs. N. Watson, Miss Carrie Sprandel, Miss Hall
 1913-1914—Miss Russell, Mrs. N. Watson, Miss Sprandel, Miss Carter, Miss Hall
 1914-1915—Miss A. Jacobs, Mrs. N. Watson, Miss Sprandel, Grace Armstrong, Miss Mabel Hall
 1915-1916—Margaret Freer, Mrs. N. Watson, Miss Kirby, Grace Armstrong, Miss Hall
 1916-1917—Joseph Reichert, Anna Sundholm
 1917-1918—Joseph Reichert, Isabel Finley, Anna Sundholm
 1918-1919—Joseph Reichert, Mary McCallum, Orpha Webb (4 mo.), Jos. Hamre (5 mos.)
 1919-1920—Joseph Reichert, Vincent Hunt, Lydia Edwardson, Hugh Wilcox
 1920-1921—Joseph Reichert, Mabel Otterness, Miss Kennedy
 1922-1923—Joseph Reichert, Vincent Hunt, Victor Elvestrom, Sylvia Melby
 1923-1924—Joseph Reichert, Mary McIntyre, Louise Sandvig, Vincent Hunt
 1924-1925—Joseph Reichert, Vincent Hunt, Louise Sandvig, Ruth Melin, Ward Smith
 1925-1926—Joseph Reichert, Louise Sandvig, Ruth Melin, Floyd Berhow, Ramona Sherman
 1926-1927—Joseph Reichert, Ruth Melin, Floyd Berhow, Ramona Sherman, Evelyn Olson
 1927-1928—Joseph Reichert, Ruth Melin, Floyd Berhow, Ramona Sherman, Evelyn Olson
 1928-1929—Joseph Reichert, Augusta Johnson, Ramona Sherman, Alice Bjorking
 1929-1930—Joseph Reichert, Alta Vorce, Floyd Berhow, Alice Bjorking, Julia McKay
 1930-1931—Joseph Reichert, Alta Vorce, Alice Bjorking, Byron Ware
 1931-1932—Joseph Reichert, Alta Vorce, Gladys Gullickson, Julia McKay, Byron Ware
 1932-1933—H. W. Mortenson, Alta Vorce, Gladys Gullickson, Byron Ware
 1933-1934—H. W. Mortenson, Alta Vorce, Gladys Gullickson, Byron Ware
 1934-1935—H. W. Mortenson, Alta Vorce, Gladys Gullickson, Byron Ware
 1935-1936—H. W. Mortenson, Alta Vorce, Gladys Gullickson, Lucille Cupp, Marion Glendenning, Byron Ware
 1936-1937—H. W. Mortenson, Alta Vorce, Lucille Cupp, Audrey Engelhart, G. Gullickson, B. Ware
 1937-1938—H. W. Mortenson, A. Vorce, A. Engelhart, Paul Lavik, Helen Shogren, G. Gullickson
 1938-1939—H. W. Mortenson, A. Vorce, A. Engelhart, G. Gullickson, H. Shogren, Wilbur Lund
 1939-1940—H. W. Mortenson, G. Gullickson, Francis Fink, Arling Anderson, Norman Pfister, Alma Hyttinen
 1940-1941—H. W. Mortenson, A. Hyttinen, F. Fink, A. Anderson, N. Pfister, Lucille Cohrs (2 mos.), Marjorie Mitchell (7 mos.)
 1941-1942—H. W. Mortenson, Ruth Marfell, Lillian Rasmusson, A. Hyttinen, A. Anderson, Lemuel Anderson
 1942-1943—Edward Johnson, Margaret Keely, Madonna Hazen, Nina Trygstad, Pearl Hill, L. Anderson
 1943-1944—Edw. Johnson, P. Hill, Sig. Johnson, M. Keely, Jean Nelson, Betty Nelson
 1944-1945—Edw. Johnson, Mae Olson, Lorraine Holmgren, Sig. Johnson, Melva Lindstrom Jacobson, Violet Edwardson, Ethel Allen, Jean Nelson
 1945-1946—Edw. Johnson, Mrs. Ruth Peterson, V. Edwardson, E. Allen, Lorraine Holmgren, Melva Jacobson
 1946-1947—Edw. Johnson, Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Mrs. L. Jacobson, Mrs. Ethel Buchan, Leroy Enger, Mrs. M. Jacobson
 1947-1948—Victor Rupp, Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Mrs. L. Jacobson, Mrs. E. Buchan, Mrs. M. Jacobson, Leroy Enger
 1948-1949—Victor Rupp, Mrs. L. Jacobson, Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Miss Judy Gottenberg, Mrs. M. Jacobson (4 mos.), Mrs. Mertrice Johnson (5 mos.), Leroy Enger

UNDEFEATED CHAMPIONS



Front row, left to right: Earl Rosdahl, Merrill Westerlund, Maynard Mundale, Carl Gudal, William Peterson, Jerome Peterson, Virgil Thompson, Howard Iverson. Second row: Richard Rodez, Alton Bergsather, Clinton Riker, Victor Martin, Earl Obermeyer, Rufus Olson, Sidney Flo, Bruce Shirk. Top row: Wilford Torgeson, Ward Smith, Vincent Hunt, Gillman Flo, Forest Lair.

The first athletic coach of the school was Vincent Hunt who came here after his return from military service in World War I. After Bricelyn's first year in high school athletics the Bricelyn school played football and basketball on equal terms with larger schools. During Mr. Hunt's term as coach the school played for three years without being defeated in football. During Mr. Ware's second year as coach, the school won all of its football games and 11 of its 14 basketball games.

1923 FOOTBALL GAMES WITH SCORES

	Score		Score
Bricelyn	13	Fairmont	0
Bricelyn	0	Blue Earth	0
Bricelyn	7	Albert Lea	6
Bricelyn	33	Elmore	0
Bricelyn	12	Winnebago	6
Bricelyn	52	Luther	0
Bricelyn	32	Buffalo Center	0

1924 FOOTBALL GAMES WITH SCORES

Bricelyn	27	Buffalo Center	0
Bricelyn	33	Elmore	6
Bricelyn	17	Fairmont	0
Bricelyn	126	Wells	0
Bricelyn	52	Winnebago	0
Bricelyn	92	New Richland	0

PLAYERS ON 1924 FOOTBALL TEAM

Quarterback—Victor Martin
 Fullback—Earl Obermeyer
 Ends—Merrill Westerlund and Howard Iverson
 Halfbacks—Rufus Olson and Sidney Flo
 Tackles—Virgil Thompson and M. Mondale
 Guards—Jerome Peterson and Carl Gudal
 Center—Wm. Peterson

BRICELYN HIGH SCHOOL BAND—1949



Back row, left to right: Joyce Mikkelsen, Gloria Alne, Duane Satre, Robert Klingbeil, Eugene Halvorson, Glendon Larson, Donovan Jacobson. Fourth row: Allen Kirsch, Ramona Hovland, Rosella Gjere, Joanne Larson, Paul Engelby, Roger Shirk, Harlan Sandmaier, Charles Holmseth, Mary Lou Hanson, Donna Peterson, Betty Rasmussen, Gail Hanson, Mary Ellen Rasmussen. Third row: Mary Johnson, Roselyn Gullord, Kathleen Rupp, Lester Anderson, Anna Marie Fosness, Dale Erdahl, Marvin Madsen, Wesley Hinz, Dale Johnson, Lois Bell, Jerry Johnson, Mary Ann Olson, David Jorgenson, Corrine Satre. Second row: Wanda Tysver, Mr. Victor Rupp, Norma Bergsetter, Dorval Hunt, Marcella Hansen, Beverly Nae, Nancy Schmidt, Carmen Mikkelsen, DeBlom Gullord, John Mikkelsen, Herman Wertjes, Roger Leland, Janice Johnson, Margaret Johnson, Brian Sabo, Gayle Marcus, Joan Halvorson. Front row: Dale Mikkelsen, Dana Kapplinger, Carol Balzer, Janice Klingbeil, Suzanne Nelson, Verle Sahr, Charlotte Helgeson, Marilyn Carlson, Sherry Kapplinger, Alone Blom, Sylvia Almlie, Delores Jacobson.

OLD LANDMARKS

During the year 1899, the building boom started in Bricelyn and many of the present landmarks were constructed.

The Vee Barber Shop building housed the First National Bank.

The present Kallestad Barber Shop building housed the State Bank but was located where the present post office is now.

The restaurant now operated by James Hughes was used as a cafe operated by Mike Gunderson.

The present Gamble Store housed a drugstore operated by Beadle and Kamrar. After a couple of years Mr. Kamrar sold his share to Mr. Ed Hebert who remained in the jewelry business in this community for 39 years.

The present Peterson Store was a combination dry goods and grocery store operated by Mr. A. E. Wilcox and Mr. Lyng.

The Lindos Pool Hall building housed a general merchandise store operated by Fosness & Elvebak.

The Home Cafe (Helmer Gestie) building was owned by Ed Legvold, but Stockdill & Evans operated a barber shop there.

The present pool hall building, operated by O. C. Mineer, housed a general merchandise store operated by Nels Moen.

The building now housing Peterson Cafe was used for show purposes, largely by traveling medicine companies which toured the country selling patent medicines. The seats were of the movable type as they were rough boards placed on beer kegs.

On the present site of the Co-op gasoline station Simonson & Flaten had a small building which housed the photo studio. Later, this building was moved out to a farm and used as a farm building.

Mr. Holverson moved his stock of general merchandise from Clayton into Bricelyn and operated a store in the present home of the Balzer Store.

The present Forest City Produce station was the home of a combination soft drink parlor and pool hall, owned and operated by Pete Johnson.

In earlier days, all communities had a hotel and Bricelyn did not differ from the others. The hotel was located on the present site of the Farmers Lumber Co. This building was destroyed by fire the latter part of March, 1921 (loss \$14,000).

The Bricelyn Sentinel was moved in from Clayton to a building erected for its use on the site of the present Manecke Drugstore. The old building was torn down and the present building erected in 1929.

The Oscar Johnson building located on the northwest corner of the village park housed a clothing store operated by Mr. Matson and later a saloon.

The buildings housing the Lindeman Hardware and Lindeman Furniture was operated in the same locations in 1900 except that they were owned and operated by Fink & Lindeman.

Mr. Pratt had a meat market in the building housing the Star Cleaners.

Bricelyn continued its remarkable growth during the following months. During this time O. A. S. Johnson started the Hub Clothing Store and he continues to operate it on the same site.

The Davenport saloon was constructed on the present site of Wolf Habein Anderson store. This building was later sold and moved. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Savick.

The Hamm Brewing Co. constructed the building housing the present Hanson Hatchery and it was used as a saloon in the earlier days.

CLAYTON-BRICELYN CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY



Early creamery on V. R. Hunt farm one mile north of Bricelyn.

A meeting was called at the Clayton schoolhouse for the purpose of organizing a co-operative creamery company. C. T. Bassett was chosen chairman, and A. W. Kingsley was chosen secretary.

A motion was made to organize with five thousand dollars worth of stock. A further motion was made to the effect that the amount of indebtedness to which this company shall at any time subject itself, shall be three thousand five hundred (\$3500.00) dollars. Stocks were sold at \$50.00 each.

The following officers were elected by acclamation: President, C. T. Bassett; vice-president, Marsh Christoferson; secretary, James G. Prior; treasurer, E. W. Morgan; directors, W. C. Armstrong for three years, Ole Johnson for two years and A. W. Kingsley for one year.

BRICELYN'S FIRST BUTTERMAKER PETER WESTERLUND



Peter Westerlund

Peter Westerlund, community painting and interior decorating contractor, is one of those rare individuals to whom no household skill or building trade is a mystery.

If he is hired to paint your home, he may well end up repairing the plumbing, changing the electrical circuit or building a chimney. On all the tasks, his work will be faultless.

Pete was born on a farm near Wells. When he was 13 he decided that the buttermaker in the creamery had an interesting job, so he went to work in a country creamery near Wells known as the Cream Cobb creamery. By the time he was 18 he was buttermaker in the Clayton creamery, and he moved with the creamery to Bricelyn in 1900.

Pete served the creamery for three years and then went to Beauford, Minnesota, where he made butter for three more years.

Moving again, he made butter in the Maritte, Minnesota creamery for several months, but because he had difficulty finding a place to live, he moved to Rice Lake, Wis. Here he spent four years learning the painting and paper hanging trade.

In the meantime, he had married Mayme Johnson March 31, 1906, and in the course of the years three sons were born to them, Merrill, Stanley and Lawrence.

For a time he worked at Wells at his new trade, being employed by Mr. Brune. As a sideline, he helped Fred Hanson in the furniture and undertaking business. Finally, he came back to Bricelyn where he has been hanging paper, painting walls, and diagnosing household ailments and affecting cures ever since.

He seems to have passed on to his children the unique gift for household handiwork, because they seem to follow his footprints.

PRESENT BUTTERMAKER

ALFRED A. DOSS



Alfred Doss

No two men arrive at success by the same route. Were it a cut and dried rule applicable in every case, then it would be easy for us all. But notwithstanding the divergencies of approaches, there are certain fundamental principles which every man must make a part of himself before he can essay the first turning. These are good judgment, integrity, perseverance and honesty.

Mr. Doss is one of the leading buttermakers in Faribault County and is known throughout Southern Minnesota as a man who is most absorbed in his job—to the utter exclusion of all else. It is this singlemindedness that has brought him so far along the road to success. "One straight road to success," Mr. Doss says, "is to learn to love your job." The man who works only because he is paid to work cannot compete with the man who works because he would rather do that than anything else.

Mr. Doss learned the butter making trade at Alma City, Minnesota, and has worked 26 years at the business. He came to Bricelyn in 1936 from Judson, Minnesota.

All the butter made at the creamery is packed under the Land O'Lakes label and shipped to the Land O'Lakes creamery at Minneapolis, from where it is distributed to all parts of the world. The peak production year being in 1941 when 258,000 pounds were produced for which it received \$84,465.

The milk bottling department, managed by Raymond Hintz, has shown a volume increase every year since it was established. It bottles milk, cream, chocolate milk, and buttermilk, which is sold locally. The receipts for 1947 being \$23,810.

PRESENT CREAMERY



In 1905 the Clayton creamery was moved to Bricelyn. The old building was used until 1931, when a new one was built. It was decided that not more than \$15,000.00 be spent for the new building. They then became incorporated as the Bricelyn Co-operative Creamery Company.

BRICELYN'S FIRST ELEVATOR



Note the corn stalks surrounding Elevator.

The first elevators in Bricelyn were the Western Elevator Company and the Northern Grain Company, both located on the Northwestern Railroad siding; and the H. J. Riese Elevator on the Rock Island tracks near the Rock Island Depot.

Later the Western Elevator Company became the owner of both elevators on the Northwestern tracks, and on or about 1912, J. O. Lund and L. B. Lund purchased both of these elevators from the Western Elevator Company and then operated the same as the Lund Grain Company until the winter of 1920. They then sold to the present Bricelyn Farmers Elevator Company.

At that time, the Rock Island Elevator was owned by the Speltz Grain and Coal Company. This was then sold to L. B. Lund, who operated it as the Lund Grain and Coal Company for a few years. He then sold to the Bricelyn Farmers Elevator Company, who then became the owner of all the elevators on both railroads in Bricelyn, Minnesota.

In 1947, a \$40,000 mill with a capacity of 400 bushels per hour was added for serving farmers and feeders needing mixed or ground feed.

In 1948 a \$12,000 Campbell Dryer with a capacity of approximately 125 bushels per hour was installed; also a livestock buying station at a cost of \$6,500.

BRICELYN'S FIRST SALOON
One of four operating at the same time.

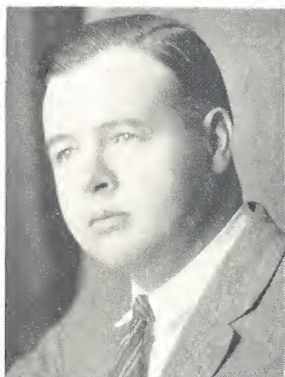


This building was erected in 1900 by Paul H. Jensen for a liquor dispensary. It stood where the Wolf Habin Anderson store is now located. It was moved in 1917 to its present location. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Savick. Mr. Jensen sold it in 1905 and moved to Davenport, Iowa, when he entered into the boarding and rooming house business. Mr. Jensen moved to Los Angeles, California, in 1919. He passed away August 18, 1947.



Interior of first hardware store, 1900. Fink and Lindeman.

BRICELYN COOPERATIVE CANNING COMPANY



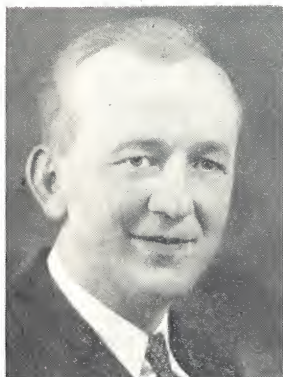
Irving Nelson
Builder of the
Canning Factory



George S. Smith
Man instrumental in bringing
Cannery to Bricelyn



Bricelyn Cooperative Canning Company.



Carl Erdal
Plant Superintendent



Clifford Bjerke
Plant Manager

BRICELYN COOPERATIVE CANNING COMPANY

Home ownership and benefits of cooperative participation in plant program by farmers in the community are two of the advantages claimed by Bricelyn's largest industry which each year places 160,000 cases of canned goods on the shelves of the nation's stores.

History for the Bricelyn Cooperative Canning Company goes back to 1920 when Irving Nelson of Lake Mills built the original plant at Bricelyn for approximately \$85,000.

Early promoters of the Bricelyn Cooperative Cannery were George S. Smith, Lars Flo, Irving Nelson, John Armstrong, and I. I. Lekness. They were also the signatories of the articles of incorporation filed April 13, 1920. Mr. Smith was instrumental in getting Mr. Nelson to locate his plant here and in interesting local capital and farmers in the project.

In 1934, when so many industries faced disaster, the Bricelyn plant was sold and reorganized under its present name, and immediately it embarked upon a slow and steady program of expansion.

Herman Johnson was the man most responsible for the re-organization of the Bricelyn plant along cooperative lines.

A couple of years ago a substantial warehouse was added on the east end of the plant. Last year, a new boiler room costing \$9,000 and a new boiler costing \$20,000 were added. New cutters, huskers, silkens and other machinery that helps in the intricate task of bringing the corn from field to grocery store have all been added to the plant since the enterprise came to cooperative ownership.

The plant on the south end of the community now has a little village all its own, with homes adjacent to the plant for the migratory workers, and with its own water plant, oil storage and its own separate office building.

Each year in the Bricelyn community some 1800 acres of sweet corn are raised for the plant's production. Under the cooperative plan, each farmer receives approximately \$22 a ton for the upwards of four tons of corn produced per acre.

From the corn approximately 4,000,000 cans are filled, sealed and stored for later sale to the nation's jobbers, the army and the navy.

How truly a community project the cannery is, is illustrated by a visit to the cannery during the pack. Prominent main street business people can be seen helping with the work, and most of the matrons in the community and practically all the school children who are old enough are somewhere about.

But the plant runs full blast while the corn is ripe, as a constant race ensues between the speeding machines in their day and night operation and the ripening corn, which is planted progressively to attempt to get an even dispersion of ripening. However, a prolonged heat spell can throw things completely out of kilter by ripening the golden ears faster than the plant can handle them.

A few figures on plant size, operation and sales were available from Plant Manager Clifford Bjerke. The plant is two stories high and 360x60 in dimension.

At peak run, 300 people are employed, with a considerable portion of the extras being laborers of Spanish and Mexican origin who come to the northern fields each summer from the border states and Mexico. The plant payroll often runs \$2,000 daily.

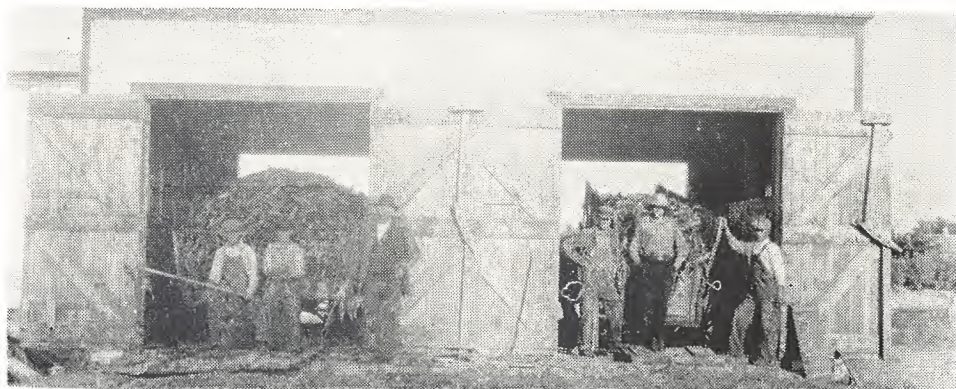
Oldest present-day plant employee is Carl Erdal who started working for 15 cents an hour in 1920. He worked his way up to become plant superintendent in 1942, a position he still holds.

Clifford Bjerke, plant manager, worked in the plant for many years, serving in nearly every department. He started at 25 cents per hour and was promoted to bookkeeper in 1935 and to plant manager in 1942.

Plant operation is governed by a board of directors elected at an annual meeting by the plant share holders. At present E. O. Lund is president of the board; Haro'd Zupp, secretary; Arthur E. Anderson, treasurer, and Absolon Gudahl, Hobert Leland, Oscar C. Johnson, Fred M. Thompson and Ingvold Mork make up the remainder of the board.

During 1949 the Bricelyn Cooperative Canning Association installed a new process of canning cream style corn known as the Cremogenized Process. With this new process all the corn is cut whole kernel which gives them an opportunity to thoroughly wash and inspect the corn after it is cut from the cob. This is not possible under the conventional method of canning cream style corn. A total of \$20,000 worth of new equipment was purchased to install this process.

A new 12-inch well was drilled and a 300 gallon per minute turbine pump installed to replace the old airlift operated well which did not furnish sufficient water for the plant's operations.



Sheds where corn is unloaded and conveyed into canning factory.

BRICELYN COOPERATIVE MEAT MARKET

The Bricelyn Cooperative Meat Market Association was started in 1936 by Julius Flo and J. C. Jelle. It was a new idea and a daring one. This association has the distinction of being the first of its kind in the United States. Its first directors were J. S. Flo, Hobart Leland, Harold Hove, J. C. Jelle and Leon Olson. It has grown from a small feeble concern into a big business which owns a large building and has installed a fine locker plant.

KEY MEN IN BRICELYN COOPERATIVE CANNING COMPANY



Manager Clifford Bjerke. Started in plant as laborer. Worked his way through almost every department. Became manager in 1942.



Carl Erdahl. Plant employee with longest service. Started in 1920 for 15 cents an hour. Became plant superintendent in 1942. An expert on the plant machinery. He knows the working of every machine.



Jacob Satre has spent all of his life around steam machinery. Plant engineer for 23 years.



Fieldman Alfred Halvorson (right) with Electrician Don Geddes. Halvorson supervises the field work from planting to harvest.



Ole M. Sunde makes the final mix of the corn and seasoning before it is fed into the cans and sealed.



Twenty-four years on the same job cooking corn prior to the canning has been L. K. Bjerke's task in the cannery.

BRICELYN'S FIRST TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Hours—7 to 9—Extra Calls 10 Cents

When Through Talking Both Phones Please Ring Off!

A

- 43 Aldrich, E. E., Res.
- 19 Aldrich, E. E., Bank

B

- 46 Bank of Bricelyn
- 7 Beadle and Hebert Drug
- 19 Bank, First Nat'l.
- 31 Blacksmith—Gullord Bros.
- 34 Blacksmith—Sabo, C. K.
- 45 Barber Shop, Maricle A.
- 28 Berg, Mike, Saloon

C

- 17 Curry, Rev. J. C., Res.

D

- 47 Dray—Erdal, Iver
- 23 Depot—C. & N.W.
- 27 Depot—Rock Island

E

- 47 Erdal, Iver, Dray

F

- 33 Fosness, L. K., Mdse.
- 19 First Nat'l. Bank
- 39 Fink & Lindeman, Hdwe.
- 38 Foster, Ed., Meat Market
- 16 Foster, Geo., Res.

G

- 31 Gullord Bros., Blksmith

H

- 21 Hotel Bricelyn
- 20 Home Restaurant
- 14 Halvorson, G. G., Mdse.
- 10 Hovland Bros. & N., Mdse.
- 41 Havnen, R. J., Res.

L

- 25 Livery Barn
- 26 Lyng & Wilcox, Mdse.
- 8 Lindeman, W. L., Saloon
- 46 Leknes, I., Bank

M

- 22 Mondale & Co., Office
- 13 Mondale, Fred, Res.
- 15 Mondale, Ed., Res.
- 6 Moen, N. S., Res.
- 45 Maricle, A., Barbershop
- 38 Meat Market, Foster

N

- 23 North Western Depot
- 36 Northern Grain Co.
- 9 Nannestad, Dr., Office
- 12 Nannestad, Dr., Res.
- 20 Nelson, Lewis, Restaurant
- 40 Noakes, J., Res.

P

- 18 Pumping Station
- 29 Peterson, J. B., Mdse.
- 35 Paulson, Gilbert, Res.
- 44 Perkins, John, Res.

Q

- 24 Queal, Lumber Office

R

- 27 Rock Island Depot
- 48 Ries Elevator
- 42 Reed, E. R., Res.
- 49 Reed, W. W., Res.

S

- 32 Stewart, Dr., Res.
- 5 Starbuck, Ray, Dentist
- 3 Starbuck, N. D., Saloon
- 30 Simonson, J., Photo Gallery
- 34 Sabo, C. K., Shop

T

- 25 Thompson Bros., Livery
- 2 Thompson, Albert, Res.

W

- 37 Western Elevator Co.
- 11 Weyerhauser, Lumber
- 4 Wilcox, A. E., Res.

DID YOU RING OFF?

NEW TELEPHONE COMPANY

(Copied from Old Sentinel Files)

Aug. 14, 1903—At the Commercial Club last Friday evening the question of telephone facilities for Bricelyn was taken up and discussed at length, and the prevailing sentiment was in favor of doing something to induce farmers' lines to build into Bricelyn and also to organize a mutual company in the village on the same plan the farmers organize; build a line and conduct an exchange on the co-operative plan. A committee consisting of Dr. Nannestad, K. O. Sandum, and Fred Sahr was appointed to go ahead with the organization and this committee sold 32 shares of stock before noon the following day, and several shares are in sight, so it is figured that the new company will start out with 40 phones. The necessity of some action along this line has been apparent for some time and the project is received with great enthusiasm. Bricelyn had last year seven phones and this year 20 phones in operation and charged for business phones \$24 per year. The Bricelyn exchange is owned by a Winnebago City company. The farmers want to build their line to Bricelyn and the Winnebago City company wants \$60 per year to connect them with their exchange consisting of 20 phones when that is all they charge at Blue Earth or Wells where they have two or three hundred phones. The farmers won't stand for it and we don't blame 'em. Bricelyn owns all its municipal improvements; the citizens of Bricelyn should own the telephone exchange and they soon will have one.

Long Distance Telephone Line to Tap Bricelyn

Oct. 16, 1903—The following from the Austin Register will be good news to the people of Bricelyn who are figuring on their own local telephone exchange on the co-operative plan. Competition is healthy and when the Tri-State company builds through here we will have good service on a competing basis. Certainly Bricelyn is on the map—between Sioux Falls and La Crosse, you know. Here is the item:

"Arrangements were completed last week by the Tri-State Telephone Company to build a toll line from Sioux Falls, S. D., to Pipestone, Slayton, Windom, Winnebago City, Blue Earth, Bricelyn, Albert Lea, Austin, Winona, Minn., and La Crosse, Wisc. Said line to be built at once and will be completed by next spring."

Bricelyn Telephone Co. organized October, 1903. Charles Fink and Albert Wilcox, committee. Total telephones in village and farm line, 40.

Brush Creek Rural Line the First to Enter Bricelyn

Dec. 24, 1903—The first farmer telephone line is completed with wires running into Bricelyn and this line was about the last of the rural lines to commence operations. The pushers of this line, Messrs. Hans Monson, John Thompson, Knute Kirkeide and Harvey Olson, deserve special praise for the quick work done in completing this line.

Dec. 24, 1903—Here is an incident of the value of a telephone system in the country: A Brush Creek farmer came to town, got on a drunk and greatly disturbed the peace and quiet of the village. However, he got away from the authorities and returned home before he could be arrested. The next morning he called up Marshal Foster by telephone and asked him if he had a warrant for his arrest. Foster replied by reading the instrument to him over the phone. The farmer said he would consider himself under arrest. He then called up Justice E. R. Lindeman and pleaded guilty as charged in the information. The mayor entered a fine of \$1 and costs and the farmer sent the fine in by rural mail carrier, Pedar S. Pedarson.

BRICELYN'S FIRST BAND



Front row, left to right: Martin Elvestrom, Ingvoid Lekness, James Noakes, Chris Lite, Carl Madsen. Second row: Jacob Havnen, Ole Hauge, Dr. R. J. Nannestad, Ralph Nannestad, John Gjerdrun, Gilbert Sandum. Back row: Jimmy Haut, Chris Gravlos, Henry Klose, George Halvorson, Iver Erdal, Carl Sabo.

POEM, BY CARL SABO, APPEARED IN THE BRICELYN SENTINEL ISSUED MAY 12, 1905, TITLED "THE BRICELYN BAND"

You may talk about your base ball
And of all the games you won;
You may sing about your foot ball
And of all the sports and fun.
But in all my days of living
I have never felt so grand
As the time you know last summer
When I joined the Bricelyn Band.

There was Doc, who played the trom-
bone,
There was Carl who beat the drum—
He could beat without a mercy
And Say! He played it some!
Star, our leader, was a corker,
He could show them how, you bet!
He played Yankee Doodle backward
On his triple-tongued cornet.

And Ed Aldrich blew his alto,
With his mouth-piece to one side.
Iver Erdal blew his tuba
Till he nearly split his hide!
Alf and Arthur tried their "bestest"
They were everybodys pet,
While John Olson blew his tenor,
He would be on time, you bet.

There was Georgie with his baritone,
He would always rather dance;
And our Jimmie on his cornet,
Say! You ought to see him prance,
All the cornet boys were hummers,
Jacob Havnen and then Lek,
You could always hear them tooting—
They would always be on deck.

Then we had a lot of clarinets
Making every kind of noise;
There was Ole, Ed and others—
But we seldom saw those boys.
Then we had our tenors, altos,
Splendid music, grand and sweet;
Mac and Ernest, both together,
Blew the darnedest after-beat.

Now, say boys, I've heard good music
And this fact, I had to learn;
That the noise that we called playing—
Why, it wasn't worth a dearn.
But of all the fun that's going,
Here or in any other land,
This I say: You'll find no better
Than the Bricelyn Cornet Band.

THE HOMEDAHL CORNET BAND—1904



Front row, left to right: Eddie Hove, Martin Honstad, Edward Peterson, Chris Surum, Ingvoid Veum. Back row: Theodore Gullord, Julius Buran, John Silrum, Julius Hove, Gustave Lillefloren, Art Lindeman.

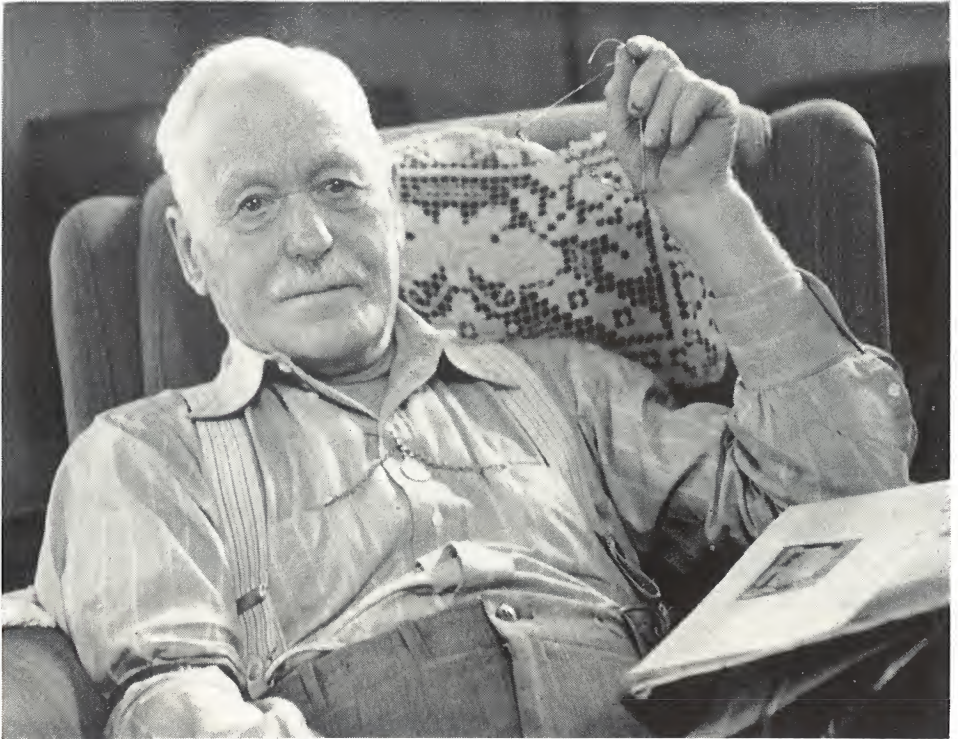
THE VIKING BAND

(Copied from Bricelyn Sentinel issued May 20, 1904)

The boys of Seely township who live in the vicinity of Homedahl have organized a band and engaged Henry Close of Albert Lea as instructor and by the way they are progressing in their practice they will soon be a number one band. Martin Elvestrom who has been in the Bricelyn band and one of the best cornet players in the county is the moving spirit of the band and when Martin is at the head of the organization it is sufficient guarantee that the band will not die for lack of interest.

Their instruments which are nickel plated and the very best they could buy, arrived last week and the citizens of Homedahl can feel justly proud of their organization. The members comprising the band and the part played by each is as follows: **Cornets:** Martin Elvestrom, Edw. Peterson, Martin Torgerson, Martin Honstad, Chris Gullord; **Clarinet:** Chris Silrum, Theo. Lillefloren; **Solo Alto:** John Silrum; **Alto:** Ole Solhaug, Andrew Gudal; **Tenor:** Julius Hove; **Trombone:** Julius Anderson; **Baritone:** Theo. Erickson; **B-Flat Bass:** Theo. Gullord; **E-Flat Bass:** Ingvoid Veum; **Snare Drum:** Gustav Lillefloren; **Bass Drum:** Ole Silrum.

ALBERT E. WILCOX



Insurance agent, farmer, telegrapher, railroad station agent, grocer, telephone operator and lineman.

Born and educated in Ontario, Canada, his love for railroading carried him constantly westward until he came to Mankato, Minnesota. Hearing of the wonderful opportunities of the new town of Brice, he journeyed there and opened a grocery store in 1900 in partnership with Mr. Charles Lyng.

Mr. Wilcox possessed a keen mind. He became one of Bricelyn's leading citizens and was known throughout the area as a reliable man who could be relied upon to do his duty as a citizen. He was a man of action, and interested himself in Bricelyn's welfare.

He called a meeting to organize the volunteer fire department; as secretary of the Creamery board was instrumental in reorganizing it into the present Co-op; director of the First National Bank; conceived the idea of planting trees for a windbreak on the north edge of the town and saw it executed; member of the village council; clerk of Bricelyn's first school board; built the Unique Theatre and operated it; secretary of the M.W.A. for over 25 years; master of the AFAM; deacon of his church, and for a short time editor of the Bricelyn Sentinel.

In 1907 he became owner of the Bricelyn Telephone Co. which he owned and operated until his death on April 1, 1946.

EDWARD THEODOR LEGVOLD



E. T. Legvold

For most of his 77 years, Ed Legvold has been a businessman, and most of the business years were spent right on Bricelyn Main Street.

He bought his first lot here when the sale of the original plot was held, purchasing the one now occupied by the Home Cafe. Previously he operated a store at Homedale, a community known by this name, five miles southwest of Bricelyn.

Ed was anxious to move the Homedale Store to Bricelyn, so after the purchase of the lot, he moved the building from Homedale to Bricelyn. Ed, being an aggressive businessman, decided to branch out, so while he operated his new store in Bricelyn, he formed a partnership with Ed and Carl Gestie, and opened a department store in Elmore, under the firm name of Gestie Bros. and Legvold. A short time later he sold the Bricelyn store and rented the building to Stockdal and Evans as a barber shop. He

finally sold the building to Christ Hanson who carried on the business of a barber.

Ed then established a livery and stable business, operating 10 teams. This was Bricelyn's first livery. For 18 months he continued in the livery establishment before selling out to Mr. Apps.

The next two years Ed worked for N. S. Moen as a clerk in a department store. He then had a try at shipping horses for resale, and finally went to work for Ole S. Johnson where he worked for the next 35 years.

In 1943, after the death of his wife, Ed retired from active business life and is now enjoying the fruits of his labor wintering in California and Texas. Summers he spends among his old friends in Bricelyn.

EDWARD HEBERT

Ed Hebert enjoys the distinction of being the only "first businessman of Bricelyn" who is still in business on Main Street, in the same line of business he started 49 years ago coming May 15.

Ed was born on a farm in Prescott township July 18, 1874. His mother died when he was six, he and his father moved to Blue Earth. Shortly thereafter, his father died, and Ed went to live with J. M. Graham. Meanwhile he attended the grade school in Blue Earth.

At the age of 12, Ed started to live with A. F. Hawkins of Blue Earth while he attended High School. From Mr. Hawkins he learned the jewelry trade.

In 1900 he came to Bricelyn in time to be in on the ground floor of the Bricelyn business district development. He opened a jewelry store on May 15. On September 22, Charles P. Beadle came in as a partner, and for 12 years the firm of Beadle and Hebert Drug and Jewelry were very much in business.

The partners sold out to Harold Therholm, but Hebert continued to operate his jewelry business in the building which he owned until 1914.

That year Ed built the building where the Farmers Cooperative Meat Market is now located. He then opened a jewelry store in the new building, with an enlarged stock of jewelry, he also operated an ice cream business assisted by Miss Hazel Riker. (Now Mrs. Floyd Story.)

On August 6, 1915, Ed was appointed Postmaster of Bricelyn, a position he filled until August 6, 1934. He discontinued the ice cream business and moved the Post Office in the building with the jewelry store to its present location.

Since the founding of the village, Hebert has been the community's first as well as only jeweler.

He will be remembered also for his great love of horses, and the writer's first recollection of the village jeweler was of the big black pacer and trotter called Harry, which Ed used to drive on Sundays and evenings of week days, up and down the streets of Bricelyn.

He used to drive Harry hitched to a little rubber-tired two-wheeled cart, east and west, to the dead ends on Fifth street. Ed had some experience with liverywork in his youth, and the love of horses remains to this day.

He has always been exceptionally considerate of children because he was made an orphan early in life.

He adopted a two-year-old girl on November 19, 1921, and reared her. She is now Mrs. Russell Schwen of Blue Earth.

Ed was married to Pearl Fink on June 15, 1916.

Ed has not been as active in business these past three years as formerly. He enjoys dividing his time between his first love, the jewelry business and his interest in life, his daughter and four grandchildren. He can be seen around town talking over the days of Bricelyn's youth with the newcomers, people who have arrived since 1899.

BRICELYN'S FIRST DENTIST DR. WILLIAM RAY STARBUCK



Dr. W. R. Starbuck

One of the best remembered citizens of Bricelyn's past is Dr. William Ray Starbuck, who died here in 1944 after nearly 40 years of unselfish community service embracing almost every field of endeavor.

Nominally, Dr. Starbuck was a dentist, but the nickname given him by the community was "Star" and like a star, he was always a guiding light, with duty and devotion to his country reflected in his selfless efforts for civic betterment.

Dr. "Star" served the community in such contrasting capacities as band instructor and baseball umpire, and he filled in the wide range between by having been at one time or another, scoutmaster, director of the home talents plays, and choir conductor.

He served on the village council, was president of the Bricelyn Commercial Club, president of the Parent-Teachers association, Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star and member of the Izaak Walton League and the local Sportsman's Club. He also was a member of the Firemen's Relief Association.

"Doc" was a charter member of the American Legion Post 165, served with the Southern Minnesota District Dental Society and the State Dental Society.

Service to one's country, he considered a privilege as well as an obligation, Dr. "Star" enlisted for World War I shortly after the declaration of hostilities and fretted impatiently for several months until he was called up.

He was nearly 60 when the second World War broke out, but Doc unhesitatingly offered his services and was disappointed by the government's refusal to call him. The writer remembers well one night shortly after his services had been politely declined by the government. We were sitting in Vern's Cafe discussing the matter when Doc said, "I'm trying it once more. I am going to enlist." And he did. He was refused again and this time he was a little bitter, as he commented, "It beats Hell a person my age can't do anything for the war effort. I don't suppose they will even let me contribute to the blood bank."

Shortly after a blood bank was organized and it's very probable that Doc was instrumental in setting up the organization.

He was born in Davenport, Iowa, July 12, 1881, the son of Nelson and Edith Starbuck. At 15 years of age he became a member of the Methodist Church at Vinton, Iowa, and sang in the church choir. He graduated from high school at Vinton and he received his degree from the Dental College of the University of Iowa in 1904.

"Doc" practised dentistry for one year in Lancaster, Mo., and moved in 1905 to Bricelyn where he lived until his death.

He married Bertina Fosness on July 29, 1908, with Rev. R. Malmin performing the ceremony.

In 1922 he joined the Bricelyn Lutheran Church and sang in the choir and finally directed it for years.

The doctor was an ardent sportsman, and while hunting ducks October 12, 1944, he suffered a heart attack. He received the best of medical care, and seemed for a time to be improving, but passed away on October 19 from another heart attack. He was 63 years, three months and seven days old.

This community owes Dr. Starbuck a great deal for his example to them the qualities that make a great leader; steadfast courage, tireless energy, unswerving loyalty, and constant devotion to duty.

As the Commander of Lee Post it was my duty at the funeral to present Mrs. Starbuck the flag which had draped the casket, and I have always felt that in so doing I presented back to her a symbol of Dr. Starbuck's spirit. It always seemed to me I heard Doc whisper, "Oh Flag, I hope I left no stain on you."



Dr. and Mrs. Starbuck home, purchased in 1920. The only absolutely fireproof dwelling in town. Originally built by Dr. O. E. Stewart for a hospital in 1914.



O. A. S. Johnson

HUB CLOTHING STORE IN BUSINESS 45 YEARS



Earl Johnson

Mr. Ole A. S. Johnson was born on a farm in Kiester township January 16, 1891, spending his youth in the neighborhood. In 1900 he went to work for the Erick Oren Store in Wells. During his stay in Wells, Bricelyn was progressing, and one of the stores moving into Bricelyn was the G. G. Halvorson Store from Clayton. Ole returned from Wells to work for G. G. Halvorson in 1901 and remained at this post until entering his present business.

On the date of Teddy Roosevelt's inauguration as president of the United States March 4th, 1904, Ole Johnson, with K. O. Sandum as partner, opened his clothing store in Bricelyn in the same building where it is now located. The partners traded the Hub Clothing Store in 1912 for 790 acres of land in North Dakota. Almost immediately Ole re-traded the store and became sole owner.

During his 45 years in business in Bricelyn, Ole has played an important role in the growth and development of the town. The Johnson organization has built a business that stands steadfastly for quality that never backs down on value. Quality is dependable because standards are high, prices are right, because value is a tradition.

Ole is a public spirited citizen and takes an active interest in every movement which promises to promote the moral and material welfare of the community. His generosity and hospitality are too well known for comment.

Through the years of Bricelyn's growth, Ole has served on the city council and as secretary, trustee, deacon and sexton of the Lutheran congregation. He served as an officer of the Bricelyn Commercial Club and played in the band and sang in the choir.

In 1907 Ole married Miss Emma Lee at Ellendale, Minn., to which union came two children, Earl, now a partner in the "Hub," and a daughter, Orpha, now Mrs. Vern Lunden of Mankato.

Mr. Johnson purchased the Emil Blom home and with his bride lived there until 1919, when his present new residence was completed and is today one of Bricelyn's best.

In 1946 Earl came back from four years of military duty in Africa, Sicily and Italy and purchased half interest in his father's store.

Earl is a graduate of St. Olaf College and Babson Institute. His training and personality is a great asset to the store. He has a host of friends and is the sort of person who wins friends easily. There is integrity and genuineness to this partnership which will lift it to high levels.

The Hub enjoys the distinction of being the oldest exclusive clothing store under the same manager in Faribault County, and as such we are happy to salute the "Hub" family.

EARLY BLACKSMITH

T. M. GULLORD



T. M. Gullord

Blacksmithing is usually passed on from father to son, but this was not the case with Carl K. Sabo who started a smithy when the town was organized. His hired man, Ted Gullord, who started work for \$2 a week, eventually took over the business from him.

T. M. Gullord, about whom the following account was written by an Albert Lea Evening Tribune reporter in February, 1949, was that hired man. It may be noted here that Gullord has never taken a vacation in all his years of blacksmithing. It will be noted from the following story, that this old-timer had no difficulty adapting himself to the changing times which saw oxen and the horse disappear from the prairie and be replaced by the auto and tractor.

"Four anvils, three automatic trip hammers and dozens of less substantial tools have been worn out by local blacksmith, Ted Gullord, during his 47 years of business here, and he is still going strong.

"The seventy-year-old pioneer, together with his son, Ward, still do a tremendous business in rebuilding and reshaping plow shares, though they haven't shod a horse for 16 years. They also do all sorts of welding, repairing, building and miscellaneous metal work for the people of the community.

"Plow shares have always been the big work of the shop. Sharpening and polishing them was a major job in the days of the horse and walking plow, and today it is not unusual to see a couple hundred shares laying around the shop waiting to be worked on or to be picked up by their owners.

"Nowadays, the shop rebuilds the shares by what is known as the "Weise way." The old cutting edge of the share is cut off with an acetylene torch, and new tool steel replacements are welded on.

The Gullords make a teamwork proposition of it, with Ward doing the cutting and welding while his father heats and pounds and then grinds and polishes the share until it is as good as new.

"The shop is cluttered with the steel and iron needed in its work, and the unfinished projects which fill in the intervals between work on the shares, but it has an excellent array of power tools and modern equipment, and the blacksmith equipment is modernized to the point where it would have made the old time blacksmith envious.

"An electric motor runs the forge bellows, though a hand bellows is handy should the power fail. The 25 pound trip hammer is also electric powered, with the switch convenient to the forge so no time is wasted in applying the hammer to the hot steel once it reaches the right degree of temperature.

"Electric power provides the motive force for the combination bench saw joiner and planer, and an overhead main shaft transmits power to the other grinders and power tills.

"A conveniently placed electric fan provides a breeze near the forge for the sultry summer days.

"That the big steel anvils could ever wear out would seem doubtful, but the truth of the matter is they tend to get swaybacked from pounding and accurate work cannot be done on them. Blacksmith Gullord said that most of his old anvils are doing duty in farm workshops where a half inch sag to the surface means little.

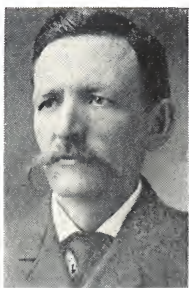
"Ted Gullord found the village only three years old when he left the family farm south of here just across the line in Iowa and moved here. He apprenticed himself to the village blacksmith, Carl Sabo, for \$2 a week until he learned the trade, and subsequently, he bought out his old boss. He has operated the same business ever since.

"Gullord is still a big man, and the old timers around town tell stories about his strength. Gullord's own stories about the community are much appreciated by the young people, because almost every other business in Bricelyn has had changes since he first started wielding a hammer in the west central part of town.

"During his years as a blacksmith, Gullord found time to raise his five sons and three daughters to adulthood and be active in community affairs, and is still reluctant to consider nearly fifty years of toil as anything more than is expected of a blacksmith."

EDITOR, FARMER, POSTMASTER, LEGISLATOR

HON. RASMUS L. MORK



HON. R. L. MORK

Not only was Rasmus L. Mork a leader among Bricelyn citizens, but in recognition of his sterling character and inherent ability, Faribault county recognized his worth by selecting this Brush Creek farmer to represent them in the state legislature where he served for four successive terms with distinction and honor.

While in the legislature he introduced the first bill regulating tuberculin testing of cattle, he also introduced the first bill to secure a pure seed law.

The juvenile delinquency problem received his attention. He sponsored and secured needed legislation particularly a law prohibiting boys under 18 years of age from entering pool halls except with the consent of parent or guardian.

The notorious stock food fraud advertising received its well deserved exposure by Mr. Mork. His bill as enacted called for a full list of ingredients and their percentages plainly printed on labels placed on each package offered for sale.

He introduced and had enacted into a law a bill making it compulsory to put gasoline in red cans.

These and the many bills advocated by Mr. Mork have since become laws to other states.

The political philosophy of this fearless legislator was so outstanding that the nation's attention was focused on this Viking from the North Star State who had recently appeared on the political horizon. No matter how bitter the battle, how formidable the enemy he never retreated. No political enemy in the state ever saw the back of Mr. Mork.

An indication of the esteem in which Mork was held by men who guided the destinies of this nation is recalled when the late Senator Knute Nelson asked him to come to Washington as his guest for a week not only to renew friendships but also to discuss and help in some measure to solve the problems of that day.

Born in Nordtjord, Norway, May 7, 1859, he emigrated to the United States and arrived in Wells, in this county, July 12, 1881, and secured employment with the Milwaukee railroad. Here he married Johanna Aarheim on June 9, 1883, and then purchased 200 acres in Brush Creek township which he developed into a splendid farm and where he resided until his fine family of children had grown to men and women. Their family was blessed with six children, namely, Anna, Jacob, Ludvig, John, Nora and Johanna.

He held several local elective offices such as township and school trustees and served 10 years as assessor.

It was from the farm in Brush Creek township that the electorate of Faribault County sent him to the state legislature and it was on completion of his fourth term in the House of Representatives that he bought a home in Bricelyn and became vice-president of the First National Bank and editor of the Bricelyn Sentinel and Postmaster. These accomplishments were achieved with the formal education of only three days in school.

When we read of the oppression and regimentation of action and thought in other lands where freedom of speech and of worship is practically non-existent we pause to consider the opportunities for advancement and the blessings in store for the honest and industrious people of these United States. Here we have this Norwegian boy coming to a strange land; the pioneer braving the winds and snows of sparsely settled Minnesota in a bit of a cabin; the good neighbor; the true man; the fearless legislator. What a useful and inspiring career his life has been, what a stewardship of service gives it color, and warmth, and strength.

Mr. Mork retired from active business in 1938 and moved to Los Angeles, California, where he planned to live his remaining days in ease and comfort. During the winter of 1939 he became ill and when it became apparent that life's journey was nearly completed, he preferred to return to his old home to live with his daughter, Nora (Mrs. Melvin Hanson), so he could be near his children and old friends.

He passed away June 18, 1939, and was laid to rest beside his wife in Dell Cemetery

LARS I. FLO

From Decorah Posten

Translated by Rev. L. M. Gimestad



Lars I. Flo

The township of Upper Stryn, Nordfjord, Norway, has contributed a large number of vigorous and capable men to the United States. Among these men Lars I. Flo of Bricelyn, Minnesota, became one of the most prominent. In the course of a long and active life he did so much for those of his community as well as for his countrymen in general that it requires an intellect of considerable scope to be able to comprehend all its parts.

Born on the Flo homestead on October 2, 1858, he was baptized and confirmed in the church of Upper Stryn; and he left home at an early age. We find him in Faribault County, Minnesota, in 1874. Like most of the other newcomers from Norway at that time he hired out to work at common labor until he had acquired some general knowledge of the country and a fair understanding of local conditions. Being a young man of ability and sound judgment he mastered these preliminary matters in a comparatively short time. He was soon able to take up farming on his own account. His first venture in this field was made in Eden Township, Winnebago County,

Iowa.

The prairie along the Minnesota-Iowa border in this section is somewhat rolling, and it was a matter of no great difficulty accordingly to construct a dugout in a hillside. Into a home of this kind Mr. Flo led his young bride, Synneve Larson, whom he married Dec. 7, 1876, and there several of their children were born. Mr. Flo, however, was a man of enterprise and ambition who did not propose to spend his life in a dugout. In a few years he made a purchase of land, built a house, and secured for himself and his family what is now called "a place in the sun."

As is well known, one of the first undertakings of a public nature in a new settlement is the organizing of a school district. Mr. Flo took a very active part in this work in his neighborhood, and I have reason to believe that he was equally active in arranging for the religious instruction of the children of the community.

The next great undertaking that called for his attention and cooperation was the organizing of a congregation and the building of a church. This work received his hearty support, and the congregation found in him one of its most faithful members. His pew was hardly ever empty. For long periods he served as a trustee. He was made a member of the home mission committee of the Iowa district of the Norwegian Synod, and he was recognized as a prominent church man by the Synod as well as by the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Liberal in money matters, his donations increased in proportion to the increase of his wealth; and on one occasion he contributed the sum of \$500 to the Pension Fund of the Synod. Mr. Flo loved his congregation with a tender and lasting devotion. Even after moving into the village of Bricelyn and after opening a place of business there in 1903 he continued his membership in the aforementioned Trinity Lutheran Congregation.

In 1914, the centennial year of the adoption of the constitution of Norway, the people of Norwegian descent on both sides of the Atlantic, realizing that the constitution of our own country as well as that of Norway were great bulwarks of liberty (that of Norway being in many respects practically identical with our own) by common consent celebrated the event as an occasion of rejoicing over the blessings of civil and religious liberty. A present was sent back to the old country by the Norwegian-Americans, and many of our citizens took advantage of this occasion to revisit the scenes of their childhood. Mr. Flo was one of these. He was present at the meeting in Christiania (now Oslo) when the gift from America was presented to the people of Norway, and he was very sorry to note the failure of our spokesman on that occasion to come up to his expectations. He was unable to recite even the first line of the national anthem of Norway.

Mr. Flo spent a part of the summer of 1914 at Bergen and in Nordfjord, and these visits proved to be of great importance to us in 1920. At that time we were delegated by the Nordfjordlag to present a gift of 57,000 Kroner to the county of Nordfjord, and most of the members of our committee had only a superficial acquaintance with conditions in the old country and very few connections. The committee consisted of the secretary of our society, Dr. Carl D. Kolset of Benson, Minn.; Mr. Lars I. Flo of Bricelyn, Minn.; Mr. R. S. Sigdestad of Pierpont, S. Dak.; the Rev. B. M. Hofrenning of Max, N. Dak.; and L. M. Gimestad of Orfordville, Wis. The Rev. O. L. Haavik of Seattle, Washington, joined us in Norway.

Mr. Flo was the oldest member of the committee, of riper experience than most of the other members and quite up-to-date in his knowledge of Bergen and Nordfjord. This made him a very valuable man to us.

The year 1924 proved to be a memorable year to our society. The historian, Jacob Anland, and the violinist, J. Rosenlid, both of Bergen, Norway, did us the honor of paying us a visit.

Genuine Norwegian hospitality was a well known virtue in the home of the Flo family. In 1924 Aaland and Rosenlid spent considerable time at Bricelyn and its vicinity making this home their headquarters.

After a long day of useful and noble activity, Lars Flo entered into his rest on the 24th day of January, 1938. Among those who by their presence or otherwise wished to bear witness of their deep appreciation of the achievements of Mr. Flo at time of his funeral, were also a number of the officers of the Nordfjordlag.

Up to this point I have studiously avoided every reference to Mr. Flo's attitude to the Bygedlag Movement, to the activities of the cultural society known as the Nordfjordlag, and to his native community across the Atlantic. I have also refrained from saying anything about his appearance, personality, and the leading traits of his character, and I have been silent as to his excellent qualities as a companion and a friend. I have done so in order that I might present him all the more clearly to the reader by focusing the light on him from these various angles as we proceed in our survey.

When I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Mr. Flo he was a man just past his prime. He was of medium height, of square build, broad-shouldered and somewhat stocky. His neck was short, and his head was somewhat large and remarkably well shaped. His face was marked with clear lines of thought; and the light of his eyes glowed with kindness and intelligence. His presence inspired confidence. Taking note of his talk, you would be struck by its steadiness, firmness and independence. He possessed the qualities which are indicated by the fundamental meaning of the word respectability.

As to the qualities of his mind, a close observer would be impressed with his unusual power of self control, by his preeminent sanity and with his endowment of common sense in a degree which is anything but common. The soundness of his judgment, not only in affairs of long consideration and study, but especially in acting on the spur of the moment, frequently surprised me. Its smooth and instant action resembled that of instinct. While others were at a loss what to do, confused and bewildered, he seemed to know just what the situation called for. He was a keen observer of men, and seldom made any mistakes in judging their character and motives. He was not immune to the influence of sympathy and antipathy in his dealings with men, but these human frailties were not pronounced in him.

As Mr. Flo was a man who noted the pressure and character of the times, especially as these were reflected in the press and corroborated by his own observations, he was fully convinced at the turn of the century that those of us who were of Norwegian descent at that time stood in need of new organs and instrumentalities in order to reach the higher levels of our cultural development. We stood in need of a free, attractive and inspiring movement calculated to bring joy to men's minds, independence of thought and a just appreciation of the cultural value of the racial heritage of our people. This being the case he welcomed the opportunity of becoming a member of the Nordfjordlag at its first meeting. He was immediately elected one of its directors, serving for more than a quarter of a century.

The citizens of Bricelyn soon took note of the valuable asset furnished to their community by the moving in of Mr. Flo. He was at once elected a member of the school board and he was soon made chairman of the village board. He served as president of the local bank for many years.

As an active and intelligent businessman he was of great service to the village as well as to the community as a whole. As an experienced farmer he knew to a nicety just what the farmers needed in order to run their farms successfully; and he handled his business of distributing farm machinery on the basis of this intimate knowledge of their needs. He was also an expert at judging the value of cattle and hogs. And if all of the stock cars loaded by him in his capacity of stock buyer at Bricelyn had been coupled together, they would surely have made a train extending across several counties.

Though Mr. Flo was a successful businessman at Bricelyn, I am inclined to believe that he and his good wife spent their happiest days on the farm. There they spent the period known by preeminence as the prime of life. There they had the deep and sweet satisfaction of seeing their work rewarded by the abundant blessings of Heaven. There they were enabled gradually to pay off their debts and to improve their financial condition. And there were laid many of their plans for their own future as were also those for the future of their children.

MISS MINNIE CHARLOTTE GESTIE



Miss Minnie Gestie

Public service is usually taken for granted. The servant, whether known or unknown to you, is expected to have a combination of patience, cheerfulness and faithfulness. When the combination displeases the public, it lets its displeasure be known far and wide, but when the public servant does a good job, the words of praise are rare.

Minnie Gestie, who has served you faithfully as a postal clerk for 25 years, is one of these ideal public servants. Her life in public service has been one of devotion to duty, and her life at home has been one of sacrifice and generosity.

While serving the public from behind the delivery window in your local Post Office, she has also maintained for years a comfortable home for her invalid sister.

Each morning before going to work at the Post Office, she does her household work, returning in the evening after a hard day's work to finish her household duties. The writer is often amazed at her endurance and capacity for work. As proof of her kindness and thoughtfulness, never a birthday date rolls around to any of her relatives and a host of friends, without a remembrance from Minnie.

On the job in the Post Office, her smiling face, and her kindly services have become known throughout the area, and she accomplishes her duties for the Government with efficiency and courtesy.

Minnie Gestie was born in Rome township, and received her grade education in the Egeness school district (No. 88). She attended Luther College at Jewell, and the Mankato Commercial college. After completing her course in bookkeeping in Mankato she took a position with the Bricelyn Implement Company, from which she resigned to take over Post Office duties as a clerk on Oct. 1, 1923.

From that time until today, under three different Postmasters, she has served in the Post Office. As a matter of fact, only one other person in Bricelyn has been as many consecutive years on one job.

MISS TILLIE AAMODT

If Bricelyn were to run a contest to locate the community's living great, the name of Miss Tillie Aamodt would have to be included on the list.

This sprightly lady has been in business on our main street for 36 years providing hats for our womenfolk and has been throughout years a leader in church work. Her success in both fields is probably largely due to the thoroughness with which she does everything. Even today, it is possible for any patron of Miss Aamodt's to go into the shop and find out the price paid for any hat she may have purchased there, whether it be this year, last year, or in 1912, the year she opened her shop.

Miss Aamodt was born on a farm near Leland, Iowa. She learned the millinery trade in Forest City, while she was still a young girl. For a few years she remained in the millinery business in Forest City, but decided that she needed to know more about her trade, so in 1909 she went to the west coast where she worked for four years in a millinery establishment in Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles before returning to this area to look for a business of her own.

In January of 1912 she opened her shop in the J. C. Olson Building where she has been doing business ever since. She remembers that her first four customers were Mrs. Dr. A. A. Gullickson, Mrs. J. P. Lair, Miss McNight and Mrs. John Olson.

In church work, she has always been the leader and often the organizer. The Willing Workers Society was organized in 1922, with Miss Aamodt the first president. Together with Emma Gullord, she organized the Dorcas Society and served as its president for 18 years. In addition she taught Sunday school and took active part in all church functions whether they were finance raising, social or strictly religious. Most of the community would probably second her nomination as one of Bricelyn's great.



Miss Tillie Aamodt



Mrs. Carnes L. Jensen

STATE AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



Mrs. Gerald Dahl

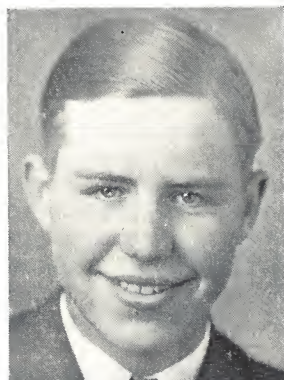
In 1936, Inez (Mrs. Carnes L. Jensen) and Leota (Mrs. Gerald Dahl) Hansen were 4-H Grand Champions in sewing at the Minnesota State Fair. Because of her fine 4-H record as well as her championship, Inez won the free Singer sewing machine.

In 1940 Leota Hansen (Mrs. Gerald Dahl) won State Grand Championship with her 4-H demonstration in bread making, also Grand Championship in pie making. In February, 1941, Leota was given a free trip to Chicago where she took part in the National Cherry Pie baking contest. She placed fifth in the National Contest.



Lewis Bidne

INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS HOG RAISERS



Calmer Bidne

Lewis Bidne and son, Calmer, raise purebred Chester White hogs. In 1946 they won the North American Championship, and the State of Minnesota Championship in 1947, also several county championships. Their hogs are sold for breeding stock purposes. One of the Bidne prize boars won State Championship in Illinois and Wisconsin. The Bidnes sold breeding stock to 4-H Clubs in the county, the offspring of which has gone to state shows and won many blue ribbons. The Bidnes hold an auction sale every year. In 1948 they had bidders from six different states. Mr. Bidne has spent his entire adult life in raising bigger and better Chester White hogs, as have two generations of his family before him.

CLAYTON BLACKSMITH SHOP BECOMES PRINTING PLANT



Above is a picture of the old blacksmith shop at Clayton, about two miles north of what is now Bricelyn. It had been vacant for many years when in 1899 Knute O. Sandum and his wife, Cynthia, who were teaching school at Amund, Rake and Homedahl, decided to occupy it, rent free. At this time the Northwestern railroad was extending its line from Mason City westward and new towns were expected to be built along its right-of-way.

Knute had learned the printing trade and with his savings and those of his wife amounting to \$600, accumulated from three years teaching, when the average teacher's pay was \$28 per month, he made the investment as part payment on a Washington hand press, also type and a small job press. This outfit was shipped to Wells and Tom Enockson with his lumber wagon hauled it to the Clayton blacksmith shop where the first issue of the Sentinel was printed two months before Bricelyn was established.

The press was set up in one corner of the shop, the horse, Nancy in the other and Mrs. Sandum made living quarters in the loft above the horse. There was no village, no place of business to advertise, no telephones; yet we note from the Sentinel files of 50 years ago that several columns of news appeared each week. Knute and Nancy-horse hustled about the community for news and obtained subscribers at one dollar per year, and Cynthia set the news items in type. We call this starting from scratch, beginning the hard way, an uphill pull; yet this primitive journalistic venture proved a decided success.



First blacksmith shop, Carl Sabo, proprietor. Located on Main street in the city park about center of the block. Ted Gulford learned the trade here and is the oldest active blacksmith in point of continuous service in the entire state.



G. G. Halverson Store at Clayton. Moved to Bricelyn in 1899.

SMOOTH MR. BALSCH GETS \$2,500 FROM OUR BANKS TO BUILD A PACKING HOUSE IN BRICELYN

The above explains the mission of the great flouring mill promotor, the philanthropic canning factory magnate, the distributor of Armour's meats and the modest, sleek individual who would have endowed Bricelyn with a three-story brick hotel.

Mr. Balsch remained in Bricelyn about a week before he worked his game. By his gentlemanly ways, select language, stately appearance and unassuming manners he won the confidence of the few to whom he confided his plans. He struck Bricelyn just right. They were looking for all these enterprises, hence our city fathers were in sympathy with his pretended plans.

On Saturday morning, Sept. 7, 1900, the State Bank of Bricelyn and the Bank of Seely each received two telegrams, one purporting to be from the Merchants National Bank of St. Paul and signed Geo. H. Prince, cashier. The other was from P. D. Armour and Company, also of St. Paul. These messages stated: "Honor draft of Balsch for \$3,000." This gave Mr. Balsch a credit of six thousand dollars at each bank. Mr. Balsch also exhibited a telegram which he received that morning, signed by Armour and Company, saying "Three thousand at bank. Close negotiations at once." He did. He went to the State Bank, showed his telegram, drew on the Merchants National Bank for \$2,000, received \$1,000 in currency and a receipt for the other thousand. With the thousand dollars in his pocket he proceeded to work the Bank of Seely. Here he received \$1,500 in currency and a receipt for five hundred. This made \$2,500 he had drawn in less than a half hour. After he had received his money he went to the lumber yard where he made a pretense of figuring on a bill of lumber. His sudden wealth made him uneasy, as he remained there only a short time when he started for the country on foot.

The cashiers of the banks didn't feel quite satisfied about the transaction and at once telegraphed the St. Paul bank to see if Mr. Balsch's draft would be honored, and at the same time let the marshall know about the transaction. Seeing Armour's representative "hike" for the country, Mr. Foster followed with a team, overtaking him near the Clayton Creamery, and without any warrant, brought him back to town. He was willing to return the money received, which he did. He remained with the marshal all day without being placed under arrest and in the evening he accompanied him to Blue Earth where he was confined to the county jail.

It developed that Balsch was an assumed name, his right name being Ingalls. He worked as night operator at the Kiester Gravel pit previous to coming to Bricelyn.

ELECTRICITY COMES TO BRICELYN



George Smith

The story of how electricity came to Bricelyn is one that reflects great credit on our early banker, George Smith, who single handedly brought the electric power to the community.

In addition to securing the lights for the city, he masterminded the financial dealings with the electrical firm that is now known as Interstate, and made the village a profit on the deal.

First considered was purchase of power from the company and distribution by a municipally owned firm which would erect the poles, string the wires and do the maintenance and servicing.

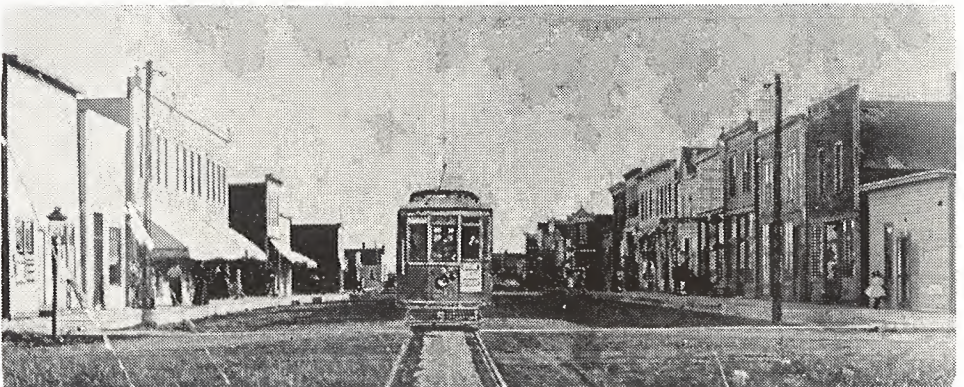
An \$8,000 bond issue was voted to finance this project and each of the village banks was to underwrite half the venture over and above the bond voted for the project.

Mr. Smith finally secured an agreement from the power company whereby it agreed to provide the service, installing lines and doing maintenance in exchange for an agreement for the village to buy \$10,000 worth of mortgage bonds of the power company and a franchise for 20 years.

Power lines came in from Albert Lea, and Christmas Eve the new lighting system was turned on in the community. Lights for Christmas was a stipulation in the contract insisted on by Mr. Smith.

Subsequently the power company repurchased the bonds from the village after having paid 6 per cent interest for several years and gave the city a 2 per cent additional profit on the bonds. Accordingly the village got lights, the power company got the franchise and the village realized a tidy profit through the careful dealings of Banker and Civic Leader George Smith.

MAIN STREET—1912



BRICELYN'S LIGHT PLANT

(Copied from Old Sentinel Files)

In June, 1902, the Village Council entered into a contract with Mr. A. M. Dawson of the Lockband Gas and Fuel Company of Mason City, Iowa, to construct a Municipal Gas Light Plant for the Village. Mr. H. V. Rule, was the financial head of the Company; Mr. T. H. Lockband the mechanical genius who planned its construction; Mr. J. O. Wilson, Construction Superintendent. Installation of the plant was completed on Dec. 24, the lights turned on. The plant worked perfect. All agreements both written and verbal were adhered to by the Lockband Company. To prove to the village that the plant was satisfactory in every way, The Lockband Co. granted the Village a 30-day trial of the plant, without a penny being paid down. When the 30-day expiration date came, the Village was unable to secure the money for the bonds. Five months later—June, 1903—a warrant was drawn as payment in full with no interest added by the Lockband Co. The following paragraph with reference to the lights appeared in the Bricelyn Sentinel issued Dec. 26, 1902.

"On Monday evening, Dec. 24, gas from our light plant was turned into the mains, and Marshal Foster had turned on the lamps, the street was light as day. People could see the brilliancy of the illuminations for miles around Bricelyn, and wondered if the town was on fire."

BRICELYN'S WHITE WAY



Carl Balzer

Among the different personalities who are entitled to honorable mention for the part they have played in the business and civic affairs are Mayor Carl Balzer. He was the motivating force in securing Bricelyn's fine white way system. It will remain for many years a monument in his honor for his civic and business acumen. In 1946 the Village installed a light system with an overall cost of \$5,140, the City to own and maintain the system, and buy current from the Interstate Power Co. Although the new system is much larger, and in use many more hours per day, using larger bulbs and more current it is an admitted fact that the reduced operating cost over a 20-year period will save enough

money to pay the entire cost of installing the present white way system.

The Village purchased 40 light poles of which 34 are installed the full length of five blocks on Main Street. Previously only 22 lights were used, and only two City blocks were lighted, with services suspended at mid-night. Now, Main Street and alleys along Main Street, are lighted all night.

BRICELYN SEWER SYSTEM

A Mass Meeting was held in the City Hall on Monday evening, Oct. 26, 1935, to get the sentiment of the people whether or not they desired to take advantage of available public works administration funds (WPA). If so, did they wish to build a sewer system or pave its streets. The citizens favored putting in a sewer system. The Village Council proceeded to get the approval of the project and 12-inch tile were laid on 53 city blocks. The public works administration was to absorb 45 per cent of the labor cost, but before the project was completed the works administration liberalized its terms so that only about 25 per cent of the entire cost was born by the Village.

WATERWORKS!

Bricelyn Sentinel, Jan. 17, 1902—At a recent meeting the Village Council formally accepted the waterworks plant as constructed by J. L. White of Peru, Ill., and now Bricelyn can boast of as good fire protection as any small town in the state of Minnesota. Besides the fire protection it affords the greatest convenience of the residents of our hustling little city who can take advantage of the ample water supply by leading a stream of Nature's own beverage direct to their homes or places of business.

For one solid year the residents of Bricelyn have agitated the question of some sort of fire protection but the first active move was made early last summer by A. E. Wilcox who entered into correspondence with J. L. White. Mr. Wilcox turned the matter over to the Village Council and Theo. Morris and K. O. Sandum were sent to Pomeroy, Iowa, as a committee to investigate the plant at that place. On a favorable report from these gentlemen the council closed a contract with J. and J. L. White, of Peru, Illinois, for his complete system as recommended for a town the size of Bricelyn. We might state here that an abundance of water was found at a depth of 120 feet, the water rising within fourteen feet of the surface.

The pumping station consists of a solid brick building 20x40x10 feet. One steel pneumatic compression tank with a capacity of 11,000 gallons and guaranteed at a working pressure of 65 pounds per square inch, this pressure being equivalent to a 150 foot elevated tower. The Rotary Pump has a capacity of discharging 150,000 gallons daily or 150 gallons per minute. At this rate the pump can furnish two streams of water through $\frac{3}{4}$ inch nozzles. The stored water in the tank will run one string of hose two hours or two streams one hour without starting the pump. In case of fire we start the pump at once and from the above figures the reader can easily figure that it would have to be a hot fire that could outlive the capacity of the Bricelyn waterworks.

The air compressor is a sort of pump that forces cold air into the water reservoir. This is really the secret of the entire system. The more air you get into the tank the higher the pressure and the last gallon of water in the tank will have the same force as though there were a thousand gallons provided the pressure is the same. Will say right here that the pump can be made to force the water into the mains direct into the tank only or into both. The way we usually run the plant is to leave the valves open and then the water works into the tank and the mains both, giving an equal pressure all through. A ten horse gasoline engine furnishes the power for pumping both water and air. It is a Waterloo with electric spark and can be started in half a minute.

WATERTANK EXPLODES 36 YEARS LATER

At 20 minutes to two, Dec. 14, 1938—The Municipal Water Tank and station was wrecked by an explosion of unknown cause. Marshal Archie Cooper was in the building at the time and saw the brick wall disappear into the night air and the roof cave in. Mr. Cooper escaped injury. The Parsonage and the Breese home (now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Black) were damaged by falling bricks, several windows were broken; bricks and other debris landed in the bed rooms in both houses. No one was injured although the bedrooms in both houses were occupied.

THE PAVING PROJECT

Herman Johnson is due credit for getting the paving project started in Bricelyn. Through his effort, and co-operation of the Village Council, a contract was entered into with the Carlson Construction Company of Decorah, Iowa, to pave approximately three quarters of a mile of Bricelyn's Main Street. H. L. Sponberg circulated a petition for the signatures of the property owners along Main Street. By the time the paving crew arrived, Bricelyn had a new mayor. From then on it was Mayor Balzer, who bore the brunt of the burden in seeing to it that the pavement was completed in satisfactory manner. It was Mr. Balzer who secured the signatures of the property owners for extending the pavement west $\frac{1}{2}$ block on Fourth Street, and sold the idea to the Village Council to widen the pavement 20 feet, extending it to the curb on Main Street between 4th and 5th Street, also from the Northwestern railroad south to the driveway in front of the canning factory. The paving crew started work on the \$58,000 project Monday, April 16, 1946, and on Aug. 7 and 8 the pavement was dedicated with a free celebration, sponsored by the Commercial Club. A free corn roast (corn on the cob) was held on Tuesday evening, and a pavement dance on Wednesday evening. The corn was donated by the Canning Company, and cooked in the Canneries large vats, then hauled down town by truck, and served in the City Park with plenty of butter, donated by the local Land 'O Lakes Cooperative Creamery.

THE NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD GENEROSITY

(Copied from Old Sentinel Files)

The Northwestern railway company has indeed showed a generous and friendly feeling towards Bricelyn. After completing one of the best lines of railroad in the state through our village, erecting stock yards, water tank, and a fine depot, they donated a train load of gravel consisting of 30 cars to the village in order that it may have nice graveled streets. The gravel was unloaded here yesterday and will at once be used to surface the streets which have just been nicely graded, and the Bricelyn can justly boast of having the nicest streets of any town in this section of the country. The Northwestern has surely done their share in upbuilding and improving Bricelyn, and every citizen should feel grateful to this company for what it has done for the welfare of the village.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

On June 22, 1901, Mr. A. E. Wilcox called a meeting of the citizens of Bricelyn for the purpose of organizing a Fire Department. The Department was fully organized and 27 men paid one dollar membership fee. The following officers were elected:

A. E. Wilcox, chairman; I. I. Lekness, secretary; T. M. Gullord, nozzle man for the mechanical engine; J. B. Peterson, assistant; Fred Mundale, captain of the water hose and supplies; Carl Sabo, assistant; Ole Hauge, lineman; J. Simonson, ladderman; C. L. Fink, hydrant man.

Of the 27 men who joined the Fire Department—at the time of this writing 49 years later, 13 are still living in or near Bricelyn, namely: Ole Hauge, J. B. Peterson, Andrew Elvebak, T. M. Gullord, Henry Christopherson, Ole K. Anderson.

The first Fireman's dance was held on Jan. 1, 1903. C. L. Fink, Iver Erdal and A. P. Daly were in charge.

(Copied from Old Sentinel Files)

July 6, 1900—Ed Hebert, Bricelyn's jeweler, is now located in the post office. Ed is a No. 1 workman and anyone needing work in his line should see him.

July 13, 1900—Mayor Fink has been kept busy this week treating cigars on the boy which arrived at his home Monday morning at 3 o'clock.

Sept. 5, 1902—A good joke comes from the north end of Brush Creek Township about one of its township candidates for county office. Stopping at the house of a German after buzzing the old woman and holding the calf by the tail while she milked and then holding the baby while she got supper, he said to the farmer as he was about to leave: "I want you to come to the primary and vote for me." The reply came, "Yaw, but the odder candidate been here last week and heip me stack four loads of hay in the rain and save me \$25. I vote for him."

Sept. 5, 1902—If we dared to make special mention of one thing above another that Bricelyn can boast of—it is her fine residences and excellent water works, and last but not least her good looking girls. So modest and ladylike, and do not wear powder on their faces—Not on your tin-type.

September 5, 1902—We have watched this town grow from a row of cheaply-constructed frame buildings to streets lined with permanent well-built business establishments. Three years ago swine grew thinner as he fed out of beer kegs on the streets and sharpened himself by rubbing against the prives and run at large upsetting the swill bucket that came in contact with his nasal appendage in every back yard. But now it is different—Fine Poland Chinas and Old Berkshires are grunting in the pen waiting "Jack Frost" to sign his death warrant. Then the town cows wended their way home through the streets to give up their supply of milk at the back door. Then the citizen walked through the mud; now we sport wooden sidewalks and still some folks are not happy. Why is this so, when so many real important and substantial changes have come to our doors in just three short years.

July 24, 1903—Another crop of gadding girls has come on and the SENTINEL hopes no one's modesty will be shocked by saying that these young hussies ought to be spanked good and red. They are between 14 and 17 years old and are just so everlastingly boy-struck that they can't sit still. If their mothers knew the type of boys and young men—young human pups—these girls are running with their mothers would go into rits.

A contractor who is stopping temporarily in Bricelyn told the reporter that in the hundreds of towns he has never noticed it before like here that the young girls were so everlastingly boy-struck. He said last Saturday night down along the railroad it was more noticeable than ever. We are sorry for this as we have a lot of nice young ladies in this town and that cannot be classed in the above category, but the few silly, mis-behaved hussies that fairly ache for disgrace give a general bad reputation to the town. Look after your girls until they get sense enough to look after themselves or send them to the reformatory.

May 1, 1903—Bricelyn has the service of ten regular trains per day.

August 5, 1904—A girl from Minneapolis, who is visiting a friend in Seely township and stopping for the first time on a farm, startled the good old farmer one morning by rushing into the house screaming at the top of her voice: "Come quick, the little pigs have got the big pig down and are eating her up."

(Copied from Old Sentinel Files)

April 17, 1903—Peter Johnson returned Tuesday from Kansas City, where he bought a fine, up-to-date shooting gallery. He will have it shipped to Albert Lea where he will set it up for business.

April 24, 1903—An Indian judge has decided that a wife may kiss whosoever she pleases and as often as she likes without violating her marriage vows. Kisses, the judge says, are a wife's personal property and may be distributed to her friends regardless of race, color, sex or previous condition of servitude. Fortunately, this kind of personal property is exempt from taxation.

December 24, 1903—A very peculiar case is the disappearance of Ole Hagen, who has made Bricelyn his home ever since the town started and during all that time conducted the business of the Weyerhauser Lumber Co. at this place.

On December 8th he hired a livery and drove to Wells and there boarded a train and that was the last seen of him. It was on that same day that Manager Constans had agreed to come out to take inventory, examine the books and have a general settlement for the year. When Mr. Constans arrived he took in the situation at a glance and sent for C. A. Anderson of Elmore to take charge of the yard and the task of taking stock and balancing the books was commenced.

All of Ole's friends, and that means everybody, wonder at his strange disappearance, as they can see no motive for such strange action. His accounts, as far as we have learned, were all right, he paid his bills in town before he left and his family relations were pleasant. It doesn't seem possible that genial, big-hearted Ole could desert his young wife and two sweet children without a word as to where he was going, but such is nevertheless the case as Mrs. Hagen knows not where he is, nor when, if ever, she will see him again.

July 22, 1904—Alfred Mundale told the Sentinel reporter on Monday the last cow he tried to milk was at Matt Morris Farm in Eden Township. She was a naughty cow, said Mundale. I made a commonplace remark to her; one that is used in the very best of society, one that need not give offense. I said "So"—and she "soed." Then I told her to "hist" and she "histed." But I thought she overdid it. She put too much expression into it. Just then I heard something crash thru the window of the barn and fall with a thud outside. Uncle Matt came to see what it was that caused the noise. He found that I had done it in getting thru the window. I asked Matt if the barn was still standing. He said it was. Then I asked if the cow was injured much. He said that she seemed quite robust. Then I requested him to go in and calm the cow a little, and see if he could get my plug off her horns. That explains why I am now buying all my milk from Lyng & Wilcox.

June 10, 1904—One of the star boarders at Hotel Bricelyn went out last Saturday evening to see his best girl and stayed until the wee hours of night. On his return, through his extreme absentmindedness, he fell down the back stairs, dislocating his mind somewhat. He says there was no fire-water in the deal. Although a little disfigured he is still in the ring. Moral: Keep away from the girls.

June 17, 1904—The man who is prowling around the bank building better answer up when the challenge "Who is there" is given, or he may get treated to a dose of cold lead. The cartridge "waits for no man" when the trigger is pulled. A word to the wise is sufficient.

MUCH LIVESTOCK SHIPPED FROM BRICELYN

(Copied from Old Sentinel Files)

May 1, 1903—It would require the most vivid imagination for the traveler who twenty years ago traversed these boundless prairies, then a desolate, uninhabited vastness, to look into the future and see the realization of the possibilities of the dream of a fertile brain.

But this apparently barren uninhabited wilderness in a few years has been transformed into a veritable garden, beautiful and bewitching. Since then the destinies of commerce have been led in this direction so this particular spot has become great. Railroads have spanned the quiet bosom of the plains and a city has been here planted. Church spires have risen, schools have flourished and the young are here growing rich in knowledge.

Lars Flo shipped out of Bricelyn Monday evening, twenty cars loaded with sleek beeves and grunting swine bound for the Chicago market. It left here as a special train direct from Bricelyn, the young metropolis of southern Minnesota, to the older and larger and dirtier city on Lake Michigan. The shipping industry of Bricelyn is a continuous performance of such an everyday occurrence that the SENTINEL usually gives it only a passing notice and this article is simply to call attention to this commercial center as a shipping point, it having all the railroad facilities to quickly reach all points of the compass.

This section of the state has grown enormously wealthy and this wealth it has reaped from the fertile lands, every year rich with golden grain, waving fields and ripening corn, luxurious meadows, prolific orchards and hardy vegetation of every kind. Of late years the farmers of this section have added a most profitable industry and this article applies especially to the magnificent stock interests here, where grand herds of rich blooded cattle complacently graze upon meadow and hill, glossing still more their sleek coats and packing away pound upon pound of luscious beef which in time brings into the coffers of their owners most gratifying additions of golden wealth.

THE \$1,000 DEPOT ROBBERY

One seldom hears of robberies in Bricelyn, but in December, 1900, one thousand dollars was taken from the Northwestern railroad station.

On Monday morning, Dec. 24, the train brought an express package containing one thousand dollars in currency for one of the banks and was placed in the depot cash drawer by Station Agent Ostby. During the afternoon the agent unlocked the drawer and was busy checking up the freight business. While doing this he was called to the telegraph instruments to receive a message and in doing so forgot to lock the cash drawer. When he returned, he discovered that the express package was missing. Besides the agent, there were four persons in the office at the time, namely, a conductor, brakeman and two persons living in Bricelyn. At first, the agent thought the package had been extracted in a spirit of fun, but on questioning the parties he found they claimed no knowledge of the money. He wired the express company the facts and on Christmas day two of the company's officials arrived and investigated the case. The result of this investigation was an affidavit by one of the parties claiming he saw an express package extracted from the cash drawer by one of the persons present. An arrest was made, the person tried in court and acquitted.

EARLY BRICELYN ADVERTISING

(Copied from Old Sentinel Files)

1901—I am here. Fred Mundale and Co.

1901—"Get your wagon, get to Bricelyn, get your money's worth, Bricelyn is the town, my store is the place, don't delay, come now—G. G. Halvorson.

Bricelyn 4th of July celebration. Come to Bricelyn July 4th and see the explosion on the lake front.

Aug. 2, 1901—Well, we are here—"It is good to be here"—grand opening, Aug. 10 and 12—Free lunch, free beer and lemonade and free cigars. We will also give, free of charge, a beautiful frosted artificial rose to each and every man, woman and child that will call at our store on said days. We will give away, free of charge, one year's subscription to the Bricelyn Sentinel—Murphy Bros.

Feb. 21, 1901—German socks for Norwegians at 50c per pair at J. B. Peterson's Store.

Sept. 6, 1901—The Bricelyn Sentinel is the largest and best paper in the county and has the largest circulation in the county. Subscription price, \$1 per year.

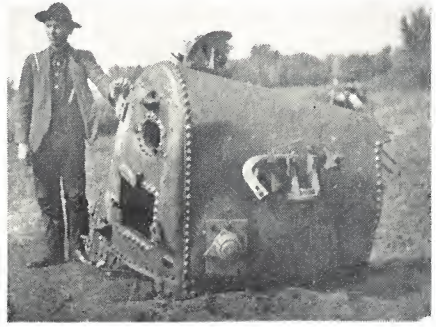
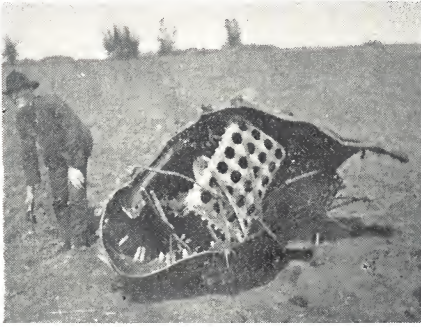
April 10, 1903—A big cyclone in Bricelyn, Minn.—But no damage to our customers as the cyclone blew the prices to pieces—But goods were not damaged in the least—Murphy Bros.

July 3, 1903—"If" a woman ever gets so "homely" she isn't worth looking at, she'd better take Rocky Mountain Tea. Brings back the bloom of youth. 35 cents. Beadle & Kamrar.

July 3, 1903—Bricelyn wants a Chinaman to run a laundry.

		Local Market Prices				Local Market Prices	
		1899	1949			1899	1949
Peaches, evaporated, lb.	—\$.09	\$.29		Butter, lb.	.....	.18	.68
Apples, evaporated, lb.	.....	.08	.25	Eggs, doz.	.....	.10	.49
Rice, good, lb.	.....	.04	.19	Lard, lb.	.....	.08	.19
Primost, lb.	.....	.06	.25	Dill Pickles, qt. jar	.....	.10	.39
Soda Crackers, lb.	.....	.05	.27	Herring, salt, 5 lb. pail	.....	.65	1.29
Peaches, 3 lb. can	.....	.15	.32	Ham, Swift, lb.	.....	.12½	.65
Pears, Bartlett, 3 lbs.	.....	.12½	.49	Bacon, Swift, lb.	.....	.14	.59
Flour, White Pearl, sack	.....	1.00	3.89	Salt Pork, lb.	.....	.10	.29
Syrup, gal.	.....	.35	.98	Bologna, fresh, lb.	.....	.10	.49
Cranberries, qt.	.....	.08	.25	Hogs, cwt.	.....	4.00	18.85
Salmon, 1 lb. flat can	.....	.10	.79	Round Steak, lb.	.....	.25	.65
Dates, lb.	.....	.05	.20	Porterhouse Steak, lb.	.....	.35	.60
Plums, pitted, 2½ can	.....	.10	.25	Hamburger Sausage, lb.	.....	.10	.53
Salt, lb.	.....	.02½	.05	Broadcloth, 52 in. wide, yd.	.....	1.00	.75
Norsk Sukker Kavering,				Outing Flannel, yd.	.....	.05	.30
(Rusk), lb.	.....	.10	.23	Wide Percale, yd.	.....	.08	.42
Oatmeal, lb.	.....	.03	.09	Scotch Muslins, yd.	.....	.07	.45
Potatoes, bu.	.....	1.50	3.00	Standard Gingham, yd.	.....	.04½	1.25
Tomatoes, No. 3 can	.....	.10	.25	Standard Calico, yd.	.....	.04½	.29
Corn, No. 2 can	.....	.10	.22	Wheat, bu.	.....	.54	2.08
Ketsup, lge. bottle	.....	.10	.25	Oats, bu.	.....	.19	.56
Baked Beans, No. 2 can	.....	.12½	.18	Flax, bu.	.....	.81	3.75
Pickles, half gal.	.....	.25	.49	Barley, bu.	.....	.28	1.20
Pears, lge. can	.....	.10	.39	Corn, bu.	.....	.22	1.15
Plums, lge. can	.....	.10	.25	Blankets, all wool	.....	4.00	12.95
Sugar, lb.	.....	.05	.10	Blankets, cotton	.....	.38	3.25
Coffee, bulk, lb.	.....	.11	.50	Overalls, men's	.....	.75	3.39
Cream Cheese, lb.	.....	.15	.59	Overalls, boys'	.....	.50	1.98
Prunes, lb.	.....	.06	.25	Twine, lb.	.....	.12½	.13½
Toilet Soap, bar	.....	.02	.10	Kerosene, gal.	.....	.13	.20

1904 STEAM ENGINE EXPLOSION KILLED FIVE



Parts of the boiler which exploded and were blown approximately 150 feet.

As related by Peter Westerlund who arrived on the scene shortly after the explosion occurred. Mr. Westerlund gave the following version:

Monday morning, September 5, 1904, Pete Daly's threshing engine boiler exploded and killed five. (Each day prior to the accident, the crew had been delayed due to repairs on the machine.) The accident occurred while two of the men were tightening the belt of a boiler carrying 40 pounds of steam.

"Pete Daly, the engineer and owner of the threshing rig, was found lying face down, half way up the side of a straw stack. One leg was gone from the hip down with the intestines exposed. He was on top of the engine when the explosion occurred and was sent into the air and shot through several rows of trees leaving pieces of clothing on the branches of the trees as he went. His leg was picked up in a plowed field about twenty rods from where the body was found.

"Jimmie Seymour landed in the hog pasture about five rods farther away from the engine than Daly's body. On close examination it was found he was terribly bruised and the skin of his body from head to foot was scalded from the shower of hot water and steam.

"Chris Sunde's body lay where the engine stood. The lower half of his body, from the abdomen down was entirely gone, the legs being found in the burning stacks of grain.

"Abe Foster had been fired straight ahead between the setting of grain; they found the charred remains under the flues of the boiler.

"Willard Gallion was lying a few rods from the engine near the well. His head was gashed and upper lip cut open; his body was mangled and legs and arms broken in several places.

"Sivert Dahl and Mons Lindvik were on top of the stacks preparing to pitch the bundles. They were unhurt, but Mons had a narrow escape as a piece of iron took the fork out of his hands.

"Willard Gallion was not well known here but was a fine appearing young man who had worked for V. R. Hunt during stacking. Mr. Hunt took charge of the remains and sent them to the boy's mother.

"The funeral of Abraham Foster and James Seymour occurred from the Baptist Church, Rev. Wilkin officiating. The remains of both Mr. Foster and Mr. Seymour were laid to rest in the Clayton cemetery.

"Chris Sunde was born in Norway and came to this country when three years of age and would have been 34 years September 8th.

"A. P. Daly was born at Cornwall, Ontario, Canada, March 15, 1869. He spent the greater part of his life in this county and in June, 1899, was joined in marriage to Anna Halvorson. They had two children, Allen Russell and Alma Ruth.

THE BRICELYN BANK ROBBERY

Bricelyn never was thrilled by a visit from one of the James brothers, as was Northfield in the early days of the state, but it had two successive bank robberies that still baffle police.

The bank was robbed of about \$5,000 August 12, 1932, by a lone bandit who entered the state bank and forced the handing over of the cash.

The bankers, however, were all set for the next robbery. A buzzer system was installed connected to the Wolf Habien store next door.

Differently from most tales, the bandit obliged by an unannounced appearance during the night of May 12, 1933. He was right on hand to greet Carl Gerzma, assistant cashier, when he opened the bank the morning of May 13.

The stranger ordered Gerzma into a clothes closet and when Typist and Bookkeeper Gladys Erdal arrived, she joined the cashier in the closet.

Henry Kiihn then entered the bank to cash a check, but his early morning business was interrupted when he also was put in the closet with the two bank employees.

Kiihn, who could see Gladys and Gerzma through the glass closet door going round and round thought it was a joke and said to the stranger, "Do you do this every morning." But, seeing the gun held firmly by the stranger convinced him that it might be a joke but he better play hide and seek, so he went to the closet. The stranger told him to "go in there and have the other gentleman come out." Carl joined the stranger and then managed to press the alarm button.

At the Wolf Habien store, the alarm was heard and Ted Carlson came to investigate. He walked into the bank front door, was met by the gunman and escorted to the closet where he joined the others.

Seeing Carlson enter the bank, Henry said to Gladys, "We are going to have company." And they did. Carlson realized quickly what was going on, but had made too hasty an entry to do anything about it.

Kiihn slyly suggested the three of them sit on the floor so if there should be shooting they would have a better chance of escaping injury. He knew Gladys was frightened and hoped she would sit on his lap. Despite the long legs and build of Kiihn and Carlson, they managed to get down to the floor of the closet. It must have been snug.

The robber scooped up several thousand in cash and then moved his closet full of prisoners to the basement where he locked them in.

He walked out the back door of the bank and moved across the back yards to his car on the street west of Main street.

William Johnson, another employee of Wolfs thought that this robbery looked like the real thing.

He was watching through the southwest window.

As the stranger made his way across the back lots, the truck of Carl Holquist, the Standard Oil bulk man, drove up.

Carl and Bill watched the stranger climb into a 1929 Model A Ford and drive away. The car had been in front of Ed Kiihn's garage. Bill and Carl gave chase in the oil truck and kept up as far as the Iowa line. They never got the license number though, and no one ever did find the robber.

In the basement, the helpless prisoners attracted the attention of Clarence Mundale, who was passing, and he released them.

No one knows whether the robber was a descendant of the famous James boys, or if he was an enterprising farm youth from Iowa finding a new and successful way to pay off the mortgage on the farm.

But, like Northfield and many an earlier Western town, Bricelyn has its own Great Bank Robbery.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Fishing on Bricelyn Main Street where Risius Implement is now located.

Do you remember—

The Tailor Sulky Rake.
Free Liver at Foster Market.
The Basket Socials.
The Warming Pans.
The Spinning Wheel.
The Conopy Top Surrey.
The Jew Peddler.

Rubber Tire Runabout.
Rushing the Growler.
Sulphur and Molasses.
Revival Meetings.
Hair Watch Chains.
The Grasshopper Invasion.
Horse Power Threshing Machine.

The free sack of candy at Halvorson's store when you paid your charge accounts.

Mrs. Rosdale and Mrs. Mork smoking their corn cob pipes.

Can you recall these names prominent in early history of Bricelyn—

Elvebak and Fosness, Bricelyn Mercantile Co., Teslow and Haugen, E. E. Eder, Rev. Sondresen, Lyng and Johnson, John Camel, Dr. A. A. Gullickson, Beadle and Hebert, K. O. Sandum, Dr. O. E. Stewart, Flo and Foster, G. G. Halvorson, Dr. Nanestad, Flo and Erdal, R. L. Mork, Nels and Hans Gestie, John Langsev, L. T. Beitland, John Harvey, John Rygh, A. W. Langworthy, G. D. Bassett, Abraham Foster, Tellif Rosdahl, Tallak Danielson.

Ole Flo, Knute Flo, Albert Schow, Martin and John Elvebak, Swede Nelson, Bill Lindeman, Ernest Lindeman, Lewis Cheir, Marsh Christopherson, Gunder Berg, Mike Berg, Iver Odden, Peter Wangen, Peter Odden?

Do you remember the gentlemen who acquired these odd nicknames—

Skunk Ole, Pete Ole, Red Ole, Shingle Britches, Phillip Ole, Jumbo, Ham Sandwich, Twilight, The Squirrel, Barney Oldfield, Shanty Pete, Skinney Daily, Stub Gunderson, Saade and Spot.

Do you remember—

The wooden sidewalks on main street?

When the farmer hatched his own chicks?

The restaurant proprietor (Nels Landstrom) who fired his two female employees because they worked all the time?

Ole Olson, the Seely Township farmer who threw his wife into the pig pen for the pigs to eat? Larry Ho commented in his column in the St. Paul Dispatch, "the meanest man in the world lives at Bricelyn."

When we used to meet at Carl Peterson's livery stable on Sunday to hear the elders exchange whoppers for the benefit of the boys standing around?

OLD GRIST MILL

For many years as most Bricelynites can remember, the site on the Blue Earth river adjoining the Virgil Thompson farm has been known as the old mill dam.

No dam is in evidence in the spot, and few residents can even remember when there was one, but the name and the story behind it date back to 1869 when Charles Fletcher erected a small grist mill on section 33 on the bank of the Blue Earth river.

It is said that the mill race for the river was formed by cutting a canal through a hairpin turn and then putting the water wheel in the channel thus erected.

The mill passed into the ownership of Hiram Raymond and was improved. It was used by the neighboring farmers for a long time and apparently did a good business before it was finally abandoned.

In the younger days of the author, the site was still used extensively for swimming, and the water was clear and high the summer through. Now youngsters hardly remember the name, and even few adults know how the locality was named.

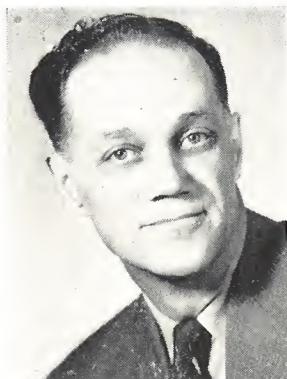
The exact site would be about 600 feet north and west of the Hunt bridge.



Ethel Babcock baptized by Rev. Temple in Blue Earth River September 1900 on V. R. Hunt farm.



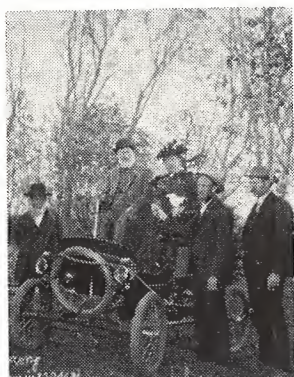
Alma Ruth Daly Hershfield, first girl born in Bricelyn, Feb. 25, 1900.



Philip Lyng, first boy born in Bricelyn, July 17, 1900.



Mrs. Bertina Fosnes Starbuck, first lady elected to school board.



First automobile in Bricelyn, 1902 Oldsmobile, owned by Mr. E. E. Aldrich.



Mr. Charles Beadle, first druggist.



Mrs. Bernice Buckman Mork, first lady elected to city council.



Mrs. Ann Mork Gudal, first and only lady to enlist in military service, World War I.



Mr. Vincent Hunt, first football coach.

NORDFJORD LAG NATIONAL CONVENTION



Picture taken June, 1919. Nordfjord Lag Work committee. Front row: Mrs. O. M. Hanson, A. P. Daly, Peter Odden. Second row: Mrs. J. E. Jacobson, L. J. Jelle, J. K. Meland, Andrew Elvebak, Newt Johnson, Andrew Elvestrom, T. M. Thompson, John Dedrickson, L. P. Larson. Third row: Ed Walle, Iver Jacobson, Martin Anderson, R. J. Havnen, Chris Walle, Andrew Hestness, J. C. Johnson, Carrie Berg, A. Abrahamson. Fourth row: Mr. Andrew Elvebak, John Dedrickson, R. J. Mork, Mrs. Dave Skutle, unidentified, unidentified, O. A. S. Johnson, John Olson, Chris Steffens, Joe Thompson, Martin Hanson, Peter Gilbertson, J. B. Peterson, Lewis Amundson, Harold Hanson, Mage Smith, Mr. Lars Flo, L. K. Fosness, Lars Jelle. Fifth row: Mrs. John Verlo, Theo. Thompson, Unidentified, C. M. Hanson, Tillie Aamodt.

Three times the Nordfjord Lag has honored Bricebyn by choosing it as its National convention city. It first convened here June 18-19-29, 1919. Several hundred were in attendance from all parts of the United States including two delegates from Norway. It convened here the second time in June 14-15-16, 1923, and again on June 10-11-12, 1949.

It's customary for the Lag to have a wedding ceremony performed at its annual conventions. The bride's costume is owned by the organization and loaned to the bride for the wedding ceremony. The costume is identical to one used in Norway. A wedding gift is presented to the bridal couple. The 1949 couple were Miss Karen Hagen and Mr. Olaf Ness of Minneapolis. Rev. R. J. Meland performed the ceremony.



GLIMPSES OF YESTERYEAR



Aura Kinsley



John F. Mundale



Henry Schow



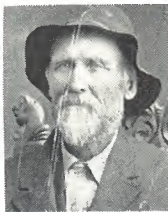
I. I. Flo



Elven Nelson



Mark H. Sandum



Jens Bolstad



Egel Lekness



Rev. K. R. Palmer



Arthur Lindeman



William Johnson



T. M. Gullord



Burt T. Flo



Floyd Story



Myron L. Flo



James Noakes



Myron Flo



Nels S. Moen



O. A. S. Johnson



P. C. Seely



Tillie Aamodt



Herman McIntosh



John Armstrong



Dr. O. E. Stewart



Mrs. Tena Halvorson



Mrs. Sarah
Reed



Mrs. Ma R. Demede
and George Reed



Mr. and Mrs. Wm.
Armstrong, Chester



Mrs. Alice Payne,
Mrs. P. Armstrong



Mrs. Valoris Flo
Hoiseth

FACES FROM THE NEAR PAST AND DISTANT PAST



Mrs. Pearl
Fink Larson



Mrs. Phyllis
Hawlish Gustafson



Mrs. L. P. Westerlund
and Egil Lekness



Ben and Ingvald
Lekness



MRS. E. O. Lund
and Elwood



Iver Erdahl



Mrs. Tena
Halvorson Marcus



Ida Gunderson
and Byrle Marten



Mrs. Beverly
Wiese Farus



Mr. and Mrs.
Alfred Mundale



Peter J. Flo



Mr. and Mrs.
Ole Sunde



Mr. and Mrs.
Herman Johnson



Ethel Peterson,
Alma and Marion



Mr. and Mrs.
Gustave Leland



Mr. and Mrs.
John Armstrong



James, Able, Edward
and Levi Lund



I. I. Lekness, Harold
Tyrholm, Emil Erdal



W. K. Starbuck and
Madeleine Schmidt



Pearl Fink and
Arthur Lindeman



BRICELYN PARK

Bricelyn's present beautiful, centrally located and much-used park has a story of its own to tell which includes one move and considerable public spirit on the part of some citizens.

Early in the village history, Block 18 was purchased by the village for use as a park from founder W. E. Brice, who made a special low price for the plot of ground.

Trees were planted through the efforts of the Commercial club and for many years the park served the village well. Then, because the town had not provided a playground for the youngsters the park became more and more used as a playground. The baseball team took to using the park for its games and finally the trees began to disappear.

As the place became known as a ball park, delegations approached the council asking that more trees be removed for the sake of baseball.

Permission was granted and efforts were made to establish a new park. John F. Mundale had already solicited a sum of money and purchased for the city most of Block ten on the east side of Main street.

The village thus had a park location, but there were no trees on the plot and use of the area for baseball previous to the time when the baseball diamond had been moved to block 18 had destroyed most of the grass.

Oscar Flo, who was councilman and park commissioner in 1927, endeavored to get the village to plant trees and improve the lawn of the new park location, but the village declined to do so. Mr. Flo then tried to get trees through the forest service, but failed here, also.

Mrs. J. D. Armstrong of the local W.C.T.U. asked Mr. Flo one day if her organization would be permitted to improve the park. Mr. Flo told her that the council was unenthusiastic about a new park and suggested that a delegation of the ladies appear at a council meeting.

The group had already raised a sum of money for park purposes, and a delegation appeared at a council meeting to ask permission to plant trees in the new park.

Permission was granted and a committee headed by Mrs. J. D. Armstrong, Mrs. Lettie Olson and Mrs. Ida Oren bought enough young elm trees from the Elmore nursery to plant two rows around the block. William Coupanger of the nursery and Oscar Flo planted the trees. The lawn was re-seeded and finally a bandstand was built.

Bricelyn now has a park which residents can enjoy every day of summer, and it makes a cool place for village shoppers to sit and rest and an excellent place to hear the weekly Wednesday night concerts of the high school band.

BRICELYN SCENES



Main Street—1914.



Looking west on 5th Street between State and Main.



Main Street—1949.



Looking north on Main Street between 4th and 5th Streets.



Main Street—1949.



Looking north on Quinn between 4th and 5th Streets.

BRICELYN COMMUNITY SERVICE PERSONNEL WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN WORLD WARS I AND II



Joseph Jelle



Bernard Mork



Christ Mikkelson



Edwin Wangen



Nels Lee



W. T. Peterson

WORLD WAR I—1917-1918

WORLD WAR II—1941-1945

Pictures of deceased and date of death
listed below.



Ole Lilleflore



Arnold Froom
7/11/43



Harlan Almlie
11/13/43



Glenn Rygh
11/17/43



Ruby Toquam
4/23/44



Arnold Olson
6/14/44



Olaf Liium
7/26/44



Robert Lindeman
10/9/44



Vernon Zoller
11/30/44



Sherman Vee
12/21/44



Maurice Iverson
12/29/44



Ralph Lorenz
1/2/45



Willard Iverson
2/29/45



Robert Hanson
3/12/45



Tim Sailor
3/31/45



Byron Iverson
4/12/45

The following persons entered Military Service in World War II from the Brice-lynn area. In the first list are the persons from the Village and the second list is composed of those from outside the Village. List may not be complete as no records are available to the writer.

Village of Brice-lynn—

Harlan C. Almlie, Howard C. Anderson, F. Lemuel Anderson, Oscar H. Anderson, Doris V. Anderson. Bige B. Bresee, Richard J. Buchan. Francis V. Berg, Arnold L. Berg, Richard Berg, Arle Bernards, Burton Bernards, Olen W. Bond, Dwight Black, Clifford M. Bjerke, Paul J. Busch, Burrell B. Baker. Othal E. Curtis, J. Walter Christianson, Gene Christopherson, Harold D. Christianson.

Rav Erdahl, Lloyd Erdahl, Allen M. Elvestrom, Bertrand E. Elvestrom, Ove Arthur Erdahl, Milton Erdahl, Donald G. Erickson, Floyd Erickson.

Floyd Fjermestad, Arnold Froom, Myron L. Flo, Donald E. Farus, Arnold R. Fjermestad.

Stanley Gullord, Robert Gestie, Arlo Gamble.

James W. Hackney, Thurlow N. Hackney, James W. Hughes, Vern Hughes, Bergene A. Hanson, Rolfe M. Hanson, Alf G. Hanson, Robert Hanson, Adolph C. Hamson, Milton Hottinger, Elihu G. Highland, Marvin Herum.

Joseph M. Jacobson, Kenneth A. Johnson, Earl Johnson, Roland Johnson, Rev. E. Jergenson, Harlan E. Johnson, Edward W. Kvelland, Marvin E. Klingbeil, Merton Kvelland.

Elwood J. Lund, Vincent V. Loen, William F. Larimer, Charles L. Larimer, Leonard R. Larimer, Robert Lindeman, Egil C. Lekness, Sylvan P. Lewis.

Alger M. Myers, Sanford A. Maurstad, Aldean Nelson.

Soren Olson, James A. Olson, William M. Odden, Clifford Overlie, Clifford Odden, Franklin L. Olsen.

William Peterson, Arthur Peterson, Jerome Peterson, Elwood Peterson, Clifford Peterson, Hans J. Rasmussen.

Miss Evelyn Savick, Alvin Savick, Miss Helen Sponberg, Allen S. Sponberg, Harris Satre, Arden H. Satre, Elmer Sampson, Martin Sampson, Hjalmer W. Sybilrud, Martin Sandman, Earl Salley, Clifford D. Salley, Allen Sarbo, Glen Sarbo, Loraine Schandel, Warren Salley, Ivan C. Swanson.

Carl Melford Tysver, Elmer Tysver, Matt Otto Thompson, Milford L. Tallman.

Harlan E. Walker, Allen Wolf.

Vernon D. Zoller, Charles D. Zoller.

Brice-lynn Address—

Melvin J. Anderson, Marvin L. Anderson, Howard L. Anderson, Everett A. Amble, Raymond E. Amble, Nordean Alne, Wayne Aspenson, Russell Aspenson, Maynard Amble.

Miss Marianne H. Bruvold, Donald Bromland, Arnold K. Bromland, Harry Borghum, Clarence A. Burkhaw, Cassie A. Blom, Eldar W. Blom, Eldo D. Bogenschutz, Ole Berkland, Jr., Arvid Bidne, Art Bangert.

Arno B. Christianson, Wallace E. Carlson, Lawrence Christianson.

Richard O. Estrada, Rutherford G. Egeness, Jerald S. Eilertson, Miss Gladys Erdahl, Orvis Erickson, Jerome Engelby.

Leon S. Flo, Ronald S. Flo, Clarence L. Fibelstad, Donald B. Flo, Omer Folven, Lawrence Flo, James L. Folven.

Marvin F. Gullickson, Maynard L. Gravley, Manuel Garcia, Walter E. Gravley, Lewis Gunderson.

Ray A. Hanson, Tilmer S. Hanson, Raymond Hanson, Roy M. Hanson, Lloyd E. Heggstad, Leon H. Hall, Clarence H. Helland, Arlow T. Hanson, John A. Helgeson, Howard A. Hovland, Gilman J. Helge-land, Orlando O. Houghland, Mark Hunt, Harold Holey, Harold C. Hovland, Larry Hansen.

Gerald Iverson, Orlando Iverson, Willard Iverson, Elmer H. Iverson, Maurice D. Iverson, Byron Iverson, Arnold Iverson, Gordon P. Iverson.

Carroll E. Jacobson, Maynard D. Jacobson, Arden J. Jacobson, Elwood Johnson, Martin Jelle, John E. Jones, Alvin Johnson, Gordon W. Jacobson, Ardin J. Jelle, Gerald A. Jacobson, Allen S. Johnson, Byron Johnke, Ronald Jacobson, Elenor G. Jagerson.

Chester A. Knutson, Lloyd E. Knutson, George T. Knutson, Elwood A. Knutson, Hans Selmer Kirkeide, James H. Kissel, Reynold Knudson.

Miss Margaret Legvold, Harold E. Lura, Arthur O. Langsev, Selmer W. Langsev, Sinclair Legsev, Severt J. Langsev, Oscar Langsev, Allan C. Leland, Wallace Leland, Ralph J. Lorenz, Maynard R. Larson, Orville W. Larson, Donald Larson, Lloyd Larson, Avery Lesto, Arthur Loge, Lowell Langsev, Arnold Ludwig, Olaf O. Lium, Gordon Lesto, Gehard Leland, Leon J. Leland, Jr., Miss Audrey Lura, Alvin Lunning, Gerald Leland, Alfred Loge.

Gerald Monson, Raymond Mork, Vernon Mikkalson, Edward P. Monson, Palmer I. Midthun, Archie W. Nepstad, Miss Gladys Nordness, Arnold B. Northwick, Paul Narum, Earl Narum.

Arnold D. Olson, Leonard W. Orr, Clifford Olson, Orvis Overbo, Silas L. Overbo, Donald Overbo, Ales Lopez Ortis, Richard Olson, Robert M. Olson, Gregory R. Orty.

Reuben Prestegaard, Perry M. Peterson, Lloyd M. Peterson.

Lloyd G. Rygh, Glen H. Rygh, Melvin Redman, Carmen L. Ramirez, Vincent Ramirez, Reuben L. Redman.

Iray M. Satre, Wallace Satre, Robert E. Sampson, Ivan H. G. Sampson, Clifford Sabin, Orville J. Sabin, Rudolph Sabin, Harlan Sabin, Arthur Sabin, Nelmer Sabin, Lawrence Simonson, Arnold Stalheim, Carl J. Schonborn, Edwin O. Silrum, Orvis K. Silrum, John L. Shirk, Elwood Sprague, Raymond L. Sahr, Arnold Sailor, Theron Seltun, Gerald Sailor, James Simonson, Ronald Satre, Sherwood Shirk, Clarence Schroeder, Marvin Sailor, Neil T. Smith, Elmer F. Schorer, Ervin L. Schorer, Arnold Sailor, Dennis D. Shirk, Odean A. Somaye, Edwin C. Sylvara, Truman Silrum.

Miss Alta M. Thompson, Miss Ruby Toquam, Newell Trustin, Melvin G. Tollagson.

Conrad M. O. Voldahl, Omer O. Vee, Sherman Vee, Donald Vee, Lowell S. Voldahl, Marvin Van Riper.



Dr. A. A. Gullixson
Organized Nels Lee Post 165
First Post Commander



Mr. John H. Reed
First Post Adjutant and Treasurer

CHARTER MEMBERS OF NELS LEE POST 165 AMERICAN LEGION

The persons' names listed below were the signatures to a petition applying for a charter to organize an American Legion Post at Bricelyn:

Oscar L. Flo	Jacob Havnen	Anton Silrum
Peter J. Flo	Orville Fink	Ludvig Almlie
Dr. A. Gullixson	William Hanson	Jasper Foster
John H. Reed	Vincent Hunt	Milton Sampson
Dr. W. R. Starbuck	Harold Shirk	Olaf Hermundstad
Joseph I. Havnen		

FIRST MEETING TO ORGANIZE A POST

Opera House, September 12, 1919

Meeting called to order and upon motion made and duly carried Dr. A. Gullixson was elected chairman of the meeting, and announced the purpose of the meeting to organize a local post of the American Legion. A formal application for charter signed by 16 servicemen having previously been mailed to the State Secretary of the American Legion. There were about 25 servicemen present. Nine applications for membership were received making a total membership of 25.

On motion made and duly carried the following Temporary Officers were elected: Chairman, Dr. A. Gullixson; Secretary, J. H. Reed. Secretary to act as Treasurer.

Motion made and duly carried that a name for the Post be selected, vote taken resulted in selection of name Lee Post, Bricelyn, Minn., in memory of Nels Lee, a local boy killed in action.

On motion made and duly carried, the following committees were elected: Constitution, Dr. H. W. Sybilrud, Dr. W. R. Starbuck, Vincent Hunt; Dr. Sybilrud to act as Chairman. Application of new members, Joseph I. Havnen, Chairman, Jorgen Almlie, Perry Wangen.

Motion made and duly carried that the next meeting be held October 1, 1919, at the Opera House, Bricelyn, Minn.

There being no further business on motion made and duly carried meeting adjourned.

A. GULLIXSON, Chairman

J. H. REED, Secretary



Aura Kingsley
First President



Gunda Rustad
First Secretary

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY—NELS LEE POST 165

(Minutes of First Meeting Copied Exactly from Record)

General Meeting held, for the purpose of organizing a Womens Auxiliary of the American Legion Post No. 165. Meeting held at the village hall, April 13, 1920. Meeting called to order by Mrs. Joe Havnen.

The following officers were elected: Miss Aura Kingsley, President; Mrs. Ray Starbuck, Vice President; Miss Gunda Rustad, Secretary; Mrs. Melvin Hansen, Treasurer. Committee on by-laws, Charlotte Hunt, Chairman. Executive Committee, Mrs. Oscar (Hazel) Flo, Mrs. Joe Havnen, Miss Connie Hunt. Membership Committee, Gunda Rastud, Chairman, Miss Anna Mork, Miss Connie Hunt, Mrs. Oscar (Hazel) Flo, Mrs. Joseph Havnen.

Motion made and duly approved, to have the Auxiliary meet with the American Legion the first Tuesday of every month.

Motion to adjourn approved.

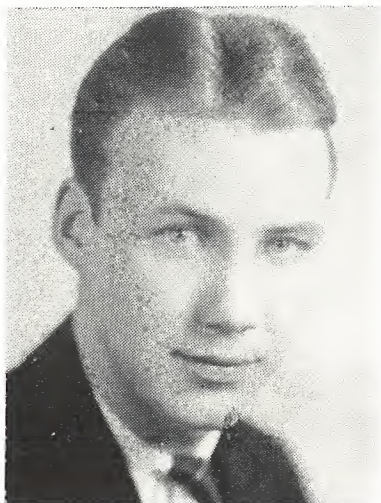
On April 16, the Women's Auxiliary and the American Legion gave a farewell party for Miss Anna Mork. Miss Mork was the only woman from the Bricelyn community to enlist in the U. S. Army in World War I. She served as an army nurse. A good program was rendered and a general social time enjoyed by all, after which refreshments were served.

Miss Mork was presented with an American Legion Pin and two bouquets of flowers.

LEGION AUXILIARY—CHARTER MEMBERS

Mrs. W. R. Starbuck	Mrs. Aura Kingsley	Mrs. M. B. Hanson
Mrs. A. A. Gullixson	Mrs. J. B. Havnen	Miss Ruth Havnen
Mrs. Ed. Hebert	Mrs. J. B. Peterson	Mrs. Nels Highland
Mrs. C. L. Fink	Mrs. Oscar (Hazel) Flo	Miss Gunda Rustad
Mrs. H. W. Sybilrud	Miss Anna Mork, R.N.	

COMMANDERS, ADJUTANTS, AND NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF NELS LEE POST 165 SINCE THE ORGANIZATION'S INCEPTION



Earl Johnson, Adjutant



Alvin Johnson, Commander

Commanders

1919	Dr. A. Gullixson, Chairman
1920	Vincent Hunt
1921	W. R. Starbuck
1922	Oscar L. Flo
1923	H. W. Sybilrud
1924	Oscar L. Flo
1925	Joseph Havnen
1926	Oscar L. Flo
1927	Peter J. Flo
1928	Iler Flo
1929	Dr. H. G. Gohde
1930	Elihu Highland
1931	J. W. Hanson
1932	Emil Meyers
1933	Emil Meyers
1934	Oliver A. Matson
1935	Oliver A. Matson
1936	Nordahl Nelson
1937	Nordahl Nelson
1938	Ben Gustafson
1939	Elmer A. Hanson
1940	Peter Christianson
1941	Edwin Johnson
1942	Edwin Johnson
1943	Oscar C. Johnson
1944	Oscar L. Flo
1945	Ole Berkeland, Jr.
1946	Dr. Albert M. Kirch
1947	Dr. Albert M. Kirch
1948	Alvin Johnson
1949	Alvin Johnson

Adjutants

Membership

J. H. Reed, Secy. & Treas.	
W. R. Starbuck	57
J. W. Hanson	46
J. H. Hovland	36
J. H. Hovland	27
Henry Thorsheim	79
W. R. Starbuck	23
Hugh Highland	25
Dr. H. W. Sybilrud	19
Emil Meyers	37
Emil Meyers	17
Emil Meyers	24
W. R. Starbuck	26
W. R. Starbuck	19
W. R. Starbuck	13
H. G. Gohde & E. G. Highland	17
O. E. Hermanstad	30
J. W. Hanson	26
J. W. Hanson	25
J. W. Hanson	21
Oscar L. Flo	28
Oscar L. Flo	25
Peter T. Christianson	26
Peter T. Christianson	27
Dr. W. R. Starbuck	31
Charles A. Johnson	61
Charles A. Johnson	49
Harry F. Risius	127
Clifford M. Bjerke	102
Clifford M. Bjerke	105
Earl Johnson	117

Officers since 1945 have been World War II Veterans.

BRICELYN'S MEMORIAL DAY SPEAKERS SINCE POST INCEPTION

1920—Rev. Omar Brenne
1921—Dr. C. S. Marston, D.D.
1922—Dr. George Mecklenburg, D.D.
1923—Rev. C. B. Martin
1924—Judge J. F. D. Meighen
1925—Rev. John Samuel
1926—Lt. Gov. W. I. Nolan
1927—Mr. Stafford King, State Auditor
1928—Col. Frank Miles, Editor "Iowa Legionnaire"
1929—Dr. Gustave Stearns, D.D.
1930—Rev. Alfred Bredeson
1931—Dr. J. A. O. Stubb, D.D.
1932—Lt. Col. E. Cleamons
1933—Dr. Julius A. Heilschler, M.D.
1934—Dr. R. J. Lovik, D.D.
1935—Rev. A. M. Whitby
1936—Albert Allen, Attorney at Law
1937—Richard W. Morin, Attorney at Law. Foreign Diplomat
1938—Mr. Ben Andreen, State Legion Commander
1939—Tom Davis, Attorney at Law
1940—Anna Dicke Olson—Former Director of Federal and State Departmental Agencies in Minnesota
1941—Ben Grogan, Attorney at Law
1942—Rev. Lorenzo J. Patterson
1943—Ray Murray, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture
1944—Rev. W. A. Korfhoge
1945—Joseph Kise, Ph.D.
1946—Rev. Einar Jorgenson, Army Chaplain
1947—Congressman Joseph P. O'Hara
1948—Senator Hubert Humphrey
1949—Rev. Einar Jorgenson, Army Chaplain

REV. JORGENSEN MOST HONORED BRICELYN SPEAKER

The above listing proves Bricelyn's policy of having Memorial day speakers of proven area, state and national prominence to make that important address.

Some of the speakers in later years became famous state and national leaders, but in all the years of Bricelyn's history only one man has been asked twice to make Memorial day addresses here.

That man is our own Rev. Einar Jorgenson who first spoke here on Memorial day, 1946, shortly after his return from military service in the Pacific area with an infantry combat unit.

For the second time, last Memorial day, Rev. Jorgenson honored us by making our Memorial day address, and he in turn was honored by becoming the only speaker in community history to have the privilege of twice presenting that important national holiday address here.

FATHER AND SON BANQUET—1948



Governor Luther Youngdahl congratulates Lars Jelle at the Legion sponsored Fathers and Sons banquet held in the high school auditorium April 27, 1948.



Governor Youngdahl poses with Boy Governor Donald Maland, Master of Ceremonies, Elmer A. Hansen and the Camp-Mor Kiltie Band from Delavan at the Fathers and Sons Banquet.



Stephan Stenson and drummer boy who appeared at banquet in full regalia of a Chief of the Winnebago Indian Tribe.



Governor Youngdahl makes speech on youth and its obligations at the Fathers and Sons Banquet. Speech broadcast on KATE. Seated is Attorney John Frondt.

The Father and Son Banquet is sponsored by the American Legion and has been an annual event in Bricelyn for the past eight years. Originally proposed by Elmer Hansen, the Banquet is an event that is looked forward to with great anticipation every year.

HOME TALENT PLAY, 1948—ALL STAR WEDDING



Front row, left to right: Larry Hansen, Wallace Leland, Oscar Anderson. Back row: Elmer Tysver, Earl Johnson, Dr. A. Kirch, Harold Christenson.



First row: Ring bearer, Elmer Tysver; bride, Wallace Leland; groom, Oscar Anderson; flower girl, Harold Christensen. Second row, left to right: Earl Johnson, Larry Hanson, Doc Kirch, Severt Langsev, Gene Christopherson, Aldean Nelson and John Bonus. Third row: Carl Seltune, Clarence Moe, Allen Johnson, Gehard Frandle, Elvin Johnson, Clifford Bjerke, Maynard Burkhaw, Hans Rasmussen, Kenneth Johnson, Wallace Carlson, and Rolfe Hanson. Fourth row: Carroll Jacobson, William Peterson, Allen Baird, Bergene Hanson, James Olson, Gerald Schoenfelder, Wallace Satre, Dwight Black, Harry Risius, and Darwin Demede.



Bricelyn Legionnaires enjoy a corn roast, Fall of 1948. Annual Event. Left to right: Earl Johnson, Earl Sather, Ralph Hanson, P. J. Flo, Archie Carlson, Richard Buchan, Elwood Lund, E. G. Highland, Milton Hottinger.



Home Talent Play, 1915, "Dust of the Earth," Play Cast, left to right: John Reed, Grace Armstrong, Margaret Freer. Second row: Mable Hall, Hazel Riker, Reuben Riker. Back row: Irving Gunderson, McKinnley Reed, Casper Towe, Gehard Peterson.



Mayor Carl Balzer presenting the key of the city to Governor Luther Youngdahl at Father and Son Banquet, March, 1948. Left to right: Rev. E. Jorgenson, Governor Youngdahl, Elmer Hanson, Mayor Carl Balzer.

KEYMEN OF BRICELYN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

When a community undertakes to proudly celebrate its 50th birthday, and to fittingly commemorate the deeds of those who played a part in its founding and development, nothing is more important than the willingness of public spirited citizens to accept individual responsibility and to offer their best in cooperation and sacrifice.

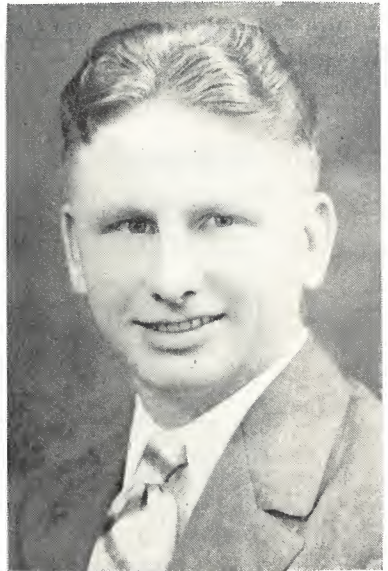


Mr. Lester Manecke

Bricelyn was fortunate in having a man like Mr. Lester Manecke in its midst, who fit perfectly for an assignment to head an organization that would successfully carry through in every detail. Businessmen recognized his worth and proceeded to elect him General Chairman of the Celebration held July 10, 11 and 12, 1949. It is doubtful if any other person in Bricelyn could have been so eminently successful in handling the many difficult and delicate problems of such a tremendous undertaking. Mr. Manecke is a man of great talent, with remarkable organization ability. He proved time and again that he was capable in every particular for the discharge of the many duties of the position.

Bricelyn is to be congratulated on having such an executive to head the organization. We cannot have too many citizens of Mr. Manecke's type.

It would be difficult to compute the many hours of labor spent by Clifford Bjerke, Parade Chairman, in organizing a parade of such magnitude. It was one of the largest parades held in this part of the State. It required a reservoir of patience and more than ordinary skill to produce such a gigantic and colorful spectacle. It was carried out with perfect timing and preciseness. The parade was ten blocks long, with more than 70 units participating, including several elaborate floats, old-time horse-drawn rigs, decorated bicycles and doll buggies, six bands and a drum corps. It is estimated that 7,000 people viewed the parade.



Mr. Clifford M. Bjerke

BRICELYN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE QUEEN

Miss Joan Leah Halverson



Miss Joan Halverson, age 17, is the charming blonde daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Halverson. A 1949 Bricelyn high school graduate, she reigned over Bricelyn's 50th anniversary celebration July 10-11-12, 1949. The accomplished, qualified Miss Halverson represented her town in a most queenly manner. She has poise, personality, charm and character. Miss Halverson is a typical American girl, pure of heart, mind, conscience and thought.

BRICELYN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE SPEAKERS

Excerpts from Murray's Speech



Ray Murray, Des Moines, Iowa. Statesman, soldier, farmer, poet, historian, administrator, radio speaker, editor. Former Iowa State Secretary of Agriculture. Former Editor Iowa Agriculture. Author of four published books, many newspapers, magazine and historical articles. Member of Iowa State Poetry Association, Iowa Author's Club and Iowa State Historical Society.

"Adventure calls the pioneer man but his woman came from a sense of duty. His was a glorious battle against the rigors of a frontier to be conquered, hers was a stern and lonely fight for a bare existence. But she asked no quarter for her aching back and poor, gnarled hands. She had come to breed new stars for the flag and she gave her all for the stalwart sons who inherited the fruits of her sacrifice. She mothered men."

"I am from Iowa and you are from Minnesota, but we are all residents of a proud union of these and 46 other states where there is no North nor no South, no East nor no West, but just a United States of America."

"We have much in common. We share with you the pride you take in the enterprising explorer for whom Faribault County was named and it was a man from my state for whom your town was named."

"I have no time nor no use for a man who claims to be an Irish-American or a Norwegian-American or any other kind of a hyphenated American. Any man who lives and makes his living in this country who doesn't want to be a one hundred percent American, has no right to live in this country at all."

"To our early settlers and first families we of today owe a deep debt of gratitude which we may never repay, but we can see to it that we maintain a reverence for their memory and an appreciation of the foundations they laid on which we can build with confidence. To each of them go our thanks for the unselfishness of their giving."

Excerpts from Sandum's Speech

There is in our town a dear little old maid who came recently to the doctor asking about the contagiousness of influenza. She announced that she had been kissed by a young man who was very sick with that disease. Asked how long ago, she said two months. The doctor told her, No danger. Well, she said, I know that, but I do love to talk about it. And so I do love to talk about Bricelyn, and although there are not many here now who helped to build the town 50 years ago, still it may interest the younger folks to learn something of conditions at that time.

Remember we started this burg in a corn field, and a muddy field it was; each one had to collect some planks for a sidewalk in front of the building and then all together chipped in to buy planks for the crossings. The lumber had to be hauled by team



K. O. Sandum

from Blue Earth, Wells, Lake Mills, or Thompson, in either case some 18 miles. Now we saw real co-operation and soon we had a village we are proud to read about. So when come September, 1903, all lines of business were here, including two banks, four saloons, two pool halls, livery barn, hitching posts, watering trough in the street to refresh the team while the driver had refreshments elsewhere. This very park was laid out and trees planted, and the schoolhouse was built; elevators on both railroads. We also had two fine churches and sometimes we attended them; also a brass band practicing nights in the new opera house. The railroad donated a train load of gravel. We were out of the mud; we were happy and wanted others to be happy so we put on a celebration the likes of which today is only a luscious memory.

You have a fine entertainment here today and I commend your committee for securing nice, clean entertainment. You should see our 1903 Model which our Commercial Club sponsored with three super-duper days of fun; two special trains crowded to the roof; seven brass bands; a 15-piece brass band show troop and negro minstrels, playing only the larger cities. We hired them for three days on a guarantee. We had them play day and night on the streets and at the two dances. It was continuous vaudeville, contagious fun; they paraded and played and everybody was happy. A. B. Ostrom, clerk in Elvebak & Fosness Store, built a grandstand seating 2,000 and the speakers' rostrum served such national dignitaries as U.S. Senator Moses E. Clapp, Congressman James T. McCleary, Minnesota Governor Van Sant, also Senator Putnam and Our Representative Rasmus L. Mork. Both Senator Clapp and McCleary remained with us for two days. They were among the best orators in Washington and they did us honor. I had the privilege of presiding and introducing these fine statesmen to our public.

Old timers still talk about the ladies trying to stop the tent shows. The vaudeville and girl shows were risque, I guess, but the concession committee had no time to stop anything. They were busy collecting for the licenses. The shell games and all games of chance had big business; it was a carnival of city slickers showing us a good time. Ole's Hub store building was up but had no roof; did not need a roof to dance, so the dance was on day and night; another dance going strong at the same time in the opera house. It was exciting, thrilling, the key to the town was lost, the clock had stopped; this was no time to close. Bricelyn celebrates. The most popular girl in town was one who no one knew, but her name was "Fairy in the Well." You climbed some stairs then looked down. For the amount of business she attracted she must have had a new hair-do. You could look but not touch. A smart gal.

It has been a pleasure to reminisce with my friends of 50 years ago. We worked hard but lived well, we had no hangover because no cigarettes; had he-man staff like Spearhead and Climax tobacco. No radio, no movies, no automobiles. We spent our evenings at home and found time to go to church on Sunday.

This trip I came by train; had intended to drive but after reading about this auto accident near Delavan I did not risk driving. The paper describing the accident said: "The operator of the other car, charged with drunken driving, crashed into Miss Miller's rear end which was sticking out into the road."

GOLDEN JUBILEE PARADE PICTURES—1949



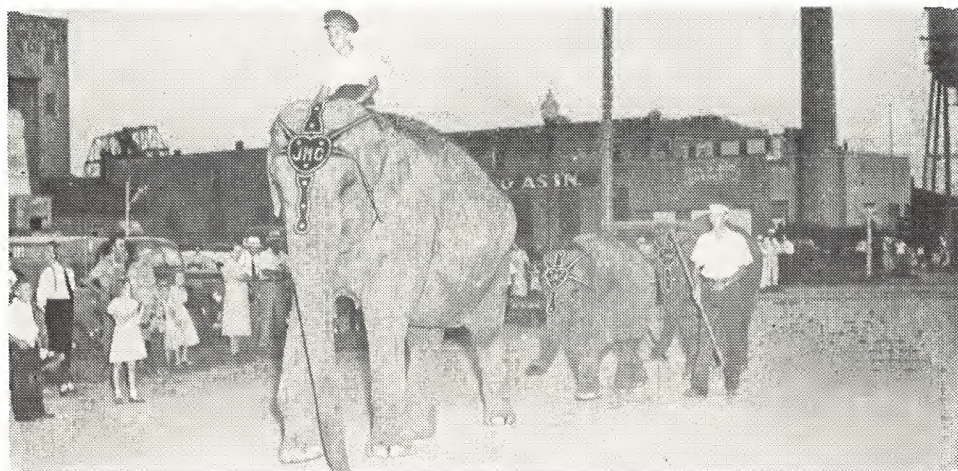
First prize float, 1903 celebration.



Arvilla Noakes, attendant, Mrs. Flaten, 1903 celebration queen.

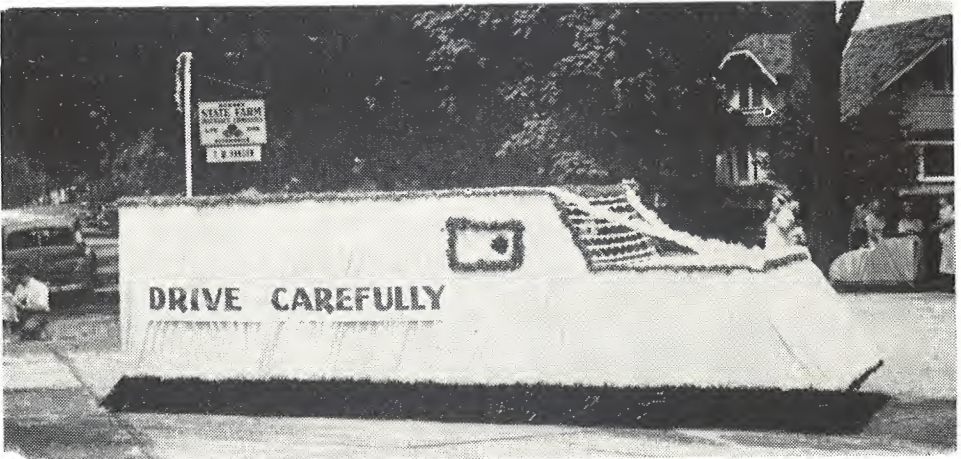


The Jubilee queen and her attendants. Left to right: Carmen Mikkalson, Joan Halvorson, Delores Jacobson and Joanne Larson.



The Elephants Are Coming! Jay Gould's circus animals.

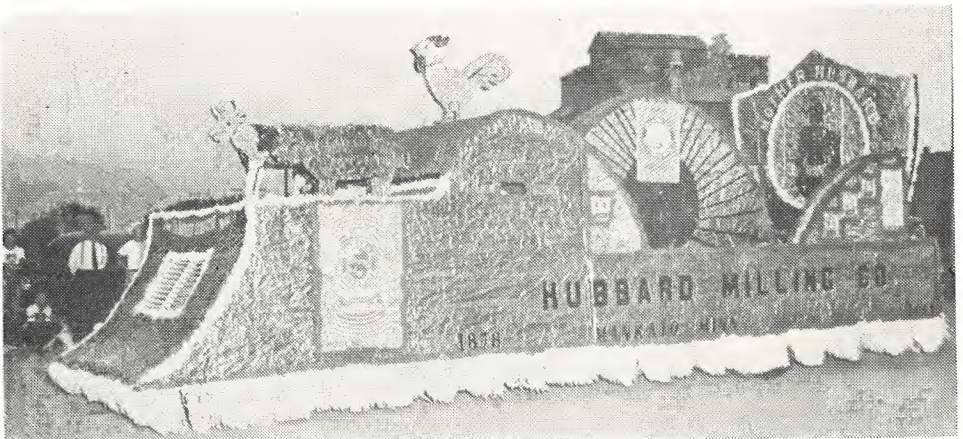
GOLDEN JUBILEE FLOATS—1949



Entered by Rolfe Hanson.

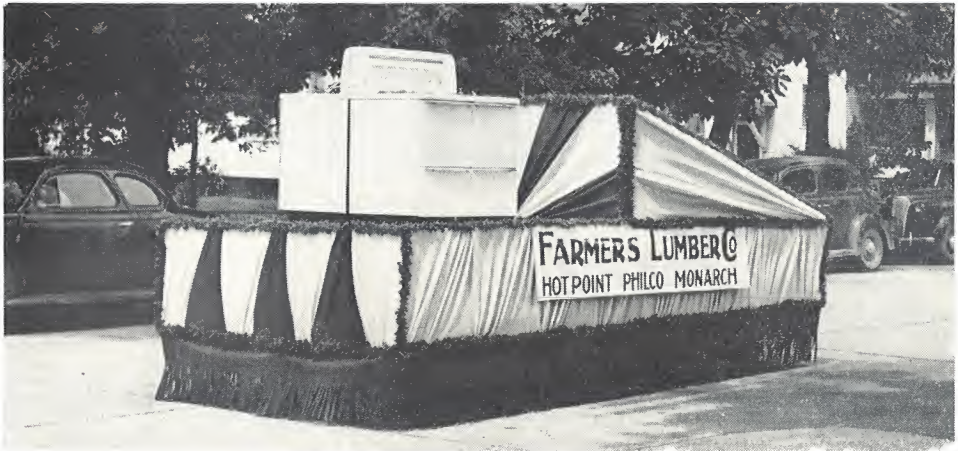


Entered by Lester Manecke.



Entered by Hubbard Milling Company of Mankato. Sponsored by the Farmers Elevator Company.

GOLDEN JUBILEE FLOATS—1949



Entered by H. M. Johnson and Ruby Peterson.



Entered by State Bank of Bricelyn. Riding on float, front row, left to right: Brian Lund, Thomas Lund. Back row: Dorothy Jelle, Carmen Gudahl. Driving tractor is Ivan Sampson.



Entered by A. C. Lindeman. Team driven by Melvin Sens, Donald Lindeman sitting beside driver.

BRICELYN'S BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS—NOV. 1, 1949

Carl's Food Shop	Carl Balzer, Proprietor
City Service Station	Frank Hamson, Proprietor
Co-Op Oil Station	Bert Elvestrom and Roland Johnson, Proprietors
Standard Oil Station	Wallace Leland, Proprietor
Sentinel Office	Ellis Morris, Proprietor
Peterson's Cafe	Elwood Peterson, Proprietor
Bricelyn Leather Store	Harry Gjere, Proprietor
Recreation Parlor	Omar Mineer, Proprietor
Home Cafe	H. H. Gestie, Proprietor
Sens Hardware	Harold Sens & Donna, Proprietors
Recreation Parlor	John Lindos, Proprietor
Peterson's Grocery	Victor Peterson, Proprietor
Hanson's Tavern	Carl Hanson, Proprietor
Barber & Beauty Shop	Omar Vee, Proprietor
Wolf-Habein Anderson	Robert Anderson, Manager
State Bank	Ed. Lund, President; P. J. Flo, Vice-President and Cashier
Post Office	Oscar L. Flo, Postmaster
Gamble Store	Richard Buchan, Proprietor
Drug Store	Les Manecke, Proprietor
Hub Clothing Store	O. A. S. Johnson and Earl Johnson, Proprietors
Millinery Store	Miss Tillie Aamodt
Bud's Cafe	James Hughes, Proprietor
Allis-Chalmers Implements	R. R. Brownlee, Proprietor
Hanson's Hatchery	J. W. Hanson
Farmer's Lumber Co.	Herman Johnson and Rudolph Peterson, Proprietors
Pure Oil Station	Alfy Nelson and Alvin Nelson, Proprietors
Veterinarian	Dr. LeRoy Nelson
Jewelry & Watch Repairs	Ed. H. Hebert
Forest City Produce	Harold Beckman, Proprietor
Blacksmith Shop	Theodore M. Gullord, Proprietor
Bricelyn Co-Op Creamery	Alfred Doss, Proprietor
Municipal Liquor Store	Orville Ullestad, Manager
Bricelyn Motors	Virgil Ehrich, Proprietor
Westerlund's Paint Shop	L. P. Westerlund, Proprietor
Co-Op Oil Bulk Station	Ingvald Erdal
Standard Bulk Station	Clifford Peterson and Carroll Jacobson
Mobiloil Bulk Station	Allen Johnson
Dentist	Dr. Albert Kirsch
Case Implement Co.	Harry Risius, Proprietor
Bricelyn Bakery	Lester Lund, Proprietor
Lindeman Furniture & Undertaking	Arthur C. Lindeman
Land O' Lakes Produce	Wm. Johnson, Manager
Park Theatre	Clinton Hodgson, Proprietor
Mundale Appliance Store	Alfred Mundale, Proprietor
Star Cleaners	Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Edman, Proprietors
Farmers' Co-Op Meat Market	Peter T. Christensen, Manager
Rock Island Lumber Co.	Virgil Thompson, Manager
North Western Depot	No permanent agent
Farmers Elevator Co.	Carl Savick, Mgr.; Floyd Story, Mill Mgr.
Co-Operative Canning Assn.	Clifford Bjerke, Mgr.; Carl Erdahl, Plant Supt.
Rock Island Depot	Lloyd Naae, Agent
Paint and Papering	Ole Ranes, Proprietor
Building Contractors	Albert Flo, Sylvan, Lewis & Harlan Halvorson, Herman Sponberg, Ole Anderson
Bricelyn Lutheran Church	Rev. Einar Jorgenson
First Baptist Church	Rev. Samuel P. Bell
Custom Shelling and Trucking	Iler Anderson, Proprietor
Draying	Otis Johnson and Henry Schow



Barber Shop, located between Post Office and Bank. Operated in 1916 by Carl Evanson and Merle Logue.



Fred Mundale Implement Company Office.

As a progressive community, in the past 50 years, Bricelyn has shown its initiative by being the first town of its size in this County to install a municipal water plant, a municipal gas light plant, the first to have a high school and a newspaper second to none in Minnesota, one of the earliest hospitals and the first movie theatre, a sewage disposal system and paved and surfaced streets. Other improvements will come as the years march on, for here lives a people who have the faith that moves mountains and the ability to make dreams come true. Confidently Bricelyn faces the future secure in the knowledge of a glorious past, a fruitful present and an ever enlightened future.



Double duty spreader. When not spreading fertilizer, can be used for political platform oration.

REMEMBER WHEN

Grandpa read his weekly paper evenings by the aid of a kerosene lamp—its light augmented by that of his faithful lantern, both reposing on the kitchen table.

You had an open grate in the ceiling just above the heating stove in the parlor. It furnished the total volume of heat for the second floor bedrooms all winter long.

Lamps with circular wicks first appeared, they were considered a definite advance in house lighting.

Some folks drank plain cistern rain water. They didn't seem to mind the stale taste, nor did they die of contaminated water.

You bought white celluloid collar buttons by the dozen, and collars were celluloid or paper and sometimes leather. Your celluloid cuffs were detachable so you could have clean cuffs over a soiled shirt.

The old blacksmith shop was a favorite loafing spot, with its pungent odor of burning horses' hoofs and forge coal spitting fire; and the ping of the anvil was music to your ear.

Watering troughs reposed on the side streets and were erected for the summer comfort of the horse population. Hitching posts, but no automobiles.

The long roller towels hung on the kitchen door of most homes.

The local horse buyer would ship in a carload of wild western bronchos. He would sell these untamed horses individually to the most daring youths of the community. A lively time was always experienced by the new owners in taming these animals.

We had no electric lights in Bricelyn. After a banquet or late social supper you would see lanterns, like lightning bugs flickering all over town.

School basket socials, called box suppers, brought keen bidding by young men for the most popular ladies' baskets.

Hog killing time came and extensive preparations made the event; and blood sausage was considered quite a delicacy.

Old time magic lantern shows were all the go in town halls and country schoolhouses.

Older ladies had hidden pockets in their jet black taffeta shirts, always yielding a lump of sugar or a stick of candy to the youngsters.

Men's suspenders were called "galluses." Their extreme width and rubber flexibility gave them real he-man distinction.

Come 9 o'clock, the men folks would step outside the house and survey the heavens. They would then make predictions as to the kind of weather we might expect the following day.

Grandma's turkey wing feather reposed on a shelf just back of the wood burning kitchen stove. It was used to sweep the dust back into the stove after the surplus ashes had been removed.

Hanging kerosene lamps just above the dining table could be slid up and down on a chain suspension affair from the ceiling.

Codfish came in open crates, and like ordinary freight reposed on the depot platform permitting the dog population opportunity of inspection. Then the drayman would drop the fish on the sidewalk in front of the store where it remained to advertise that Cod had come to town. It's next appearance was on the dining table. And what a delicious palatable morsel the Lutefisk turned out to be.

Mattresses were filled with straw or corn husks, which in time became solid and hard and had to be renewed.

It always seemed like the neighbor's privy was more odorous then your own, and, offensively so.

